

Sedki reports IMF understanding

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki on Monday reported a means of progress in talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for standby credits of up to \$1 billion. He also said his government was determined to review its foreign borrowing policy and was considering setting up an independent body to scrutinise requests for new loans. Dr. Sedki told parliament: "The government... will not accept any conditions which run against the interests of Egypt in talks with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. It also wishes to refer to the fact that the government has recently sensed understanding of its viewpoints from these international bodies and the support of donor nations." Egypt wants IMF balance-of-payments support to make up for a sharp decline in its dollar earnings from oil exports, reimbursements of Egyptians employed abroad and tourism. President Hosni Mubarak has taken a tough line on IMF demands to lift subsidies, running at nearly \$2 billion a year, saying Egypt would instead work out a new method to ensure that only the poor benefited from subsidies.

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Wife kills husband near Karak

KARAK (J.T.) — An 18-year-old wife shot and killed her 54-year-old husband while he was asleep in his bed on Monday, sources said. The motive for the murder was not immediately known, but the Jordan Times learned that the wife, identified only as S.A., was under police custody and the case under investigation by the concerned authorities. The gun used in the murder belonged to the murdered husband, identified only as S.S.S., the wife said in admitting guilt for the crime, the sources said. The couple lived in the village of Wadi Ibn Hammad, an agricultural area just outside Karak.

Chadian post said under Libyan control

PARIS (AP) — Press reports said Monday that the desert outpost of Zouar at the edge of the Tibesti mountains in extreme northern Chad fell to the Libyan forces that had been attacking it since Dec. 19. The Chadian embassy in Paris would not confirm or deny the report. There was no word from the government of President Hissene Habre in N'djamena, capital of the impoverished former French colony in north-central Africa, about the fighting between Libyan troops and the guerrillas of former rebel leader Goukouni Oueddei.

U.S. legislators differ over missile

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Republican Senator on Monday criticised U.S. President Ronald Reagan's support for construction of the truck-mounted Midgetman missile, saying it would waste defence dollars. But the Democratic chairman of the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee defended Mr. Reagan's position. "I think that the small missile is going to be totally unaffordable," Republican Senator Pete Wilson said in an interview on ABC television's "Good Morning America" programme. Representative Les Aspin, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said he considered the administration's package "a very good plan" that was expensive but "money well spent." He said the mobility of the truck-mounted Midgetman would enable it to survive a Soviet attack.

ETA claims new explosion

BAQUEIRA-BERET (AP) — Basque separatists claimed responsibility Monday for a bomb that exploded in a hotel close to the winter residence of the Spanish royal family, causing minor damage and no injuries, officials said. It was the fourth bombing claim this week by ETA, the Basque separatist organisation. A government spokesman said a caller saying he represented ETA telephoned the local fire station and hospital at 6:15 a.m. The caller said a bomb had been planted in the Montarto hotel. The device exploded at 6:50 a.m. (0550 GMT) on the third floor of the hotel, the spokesman said, causing minor damage.

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Mubarak ends visit after extensive talks with King in Aqaba

Abdul Meguid: Jordan-Egypt relations are at their best

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

EGYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak returned home on Monday after a 24-hour visit to Aqaba where he held talks with His Majesty King Hussein on issues to be tackled by the forthcoming Islamic summit and matters related to bilateral relations.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid who accompanied the president on the visit, told reporters on arrival in Cairo that Egyptian-Jordanian relations were at "their best". "Our relations are as good as relations could be between two brotherly Arab states," Dr. Abdul Meguid was quoted as saying by the Middle East News Agency (MENA). "I hope that other Arab countries will follow Jordan." The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King and President Mubarak had discussed "all aspects of the Arab situation, international issues of mutual concern and cooperation between both countries."

resumption of political coordination between Jordan and the PLO leadership." The sources, which was close to the Egyptian-Jordanian talks in Aqaba, said that Dr. Abdul Meguid's statement "basically reflected" Egypt's concern that both Jordan and the PLO resume joint political efforts to find a peaceful settlement for the Palestinian question. "It is true that Jordan is not against the principle of dialogue with the PLO," the sources observed, "but in order for such a dialogue to resume there should be an understanding and such an understanding would only be achieved if there was a change of position on the part of the PLO." According to the source, "so far there has not been any change on the PLO leadership's position." Jordan broke off political coordination with the PLO leadership when the latter refused to accept U.N. Resolution 242 on its own before joining a U.S.-sponsored peace process in the Middle East.

(Continued on page 3)

Amal leader orders 'camps war' ceasefire as 'New Year gesture'

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Lebanon's Shiite Muslim Amal militia leader Nabih Berri said Monday he had ordered a total and immediate ceasefire at embattled Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon as a goodwill gesture for the New Year. "On the occasion of the New Year and as a goodwill gesture, because of the sisterly stand of Syria and the wish of the Iranian president, (Ali Khamenei), we have called on our fighters to observe a total ceasefire as of today," Mr. Berri told a press conference in Damascus. "As of the first day of the New Year, we shall allow all food supplies and medical assistance into the Rashidiyeh camp (near Tyre in South Lebanon)," Mr. Berri said.

Amal, which has a blockaded Rashidiyeh's 22,000 refugees for three months, has previously demanded the withdrawal of Palestinian fighters from the strategic village of Maghdousheh near Sidon as the price for lifting the siege. Over 700 people have been killed and hundreds more wounded so far in the bitter Amal-Palestinian fighting which

Rashidiyeh for humanitarian reasons. Iranian diplomat-mediator Issa Tabataba'i has remained in Rashidiyeh for almost three weeks, pledging not to leave until a solution was achieved. Mr. Berri reiterated accusations that Mr. Arafat provoked the camps war and was blocking peace efforts. "Arafat seeks to keep the situation in Lebanon tense," he said. Syria has supported Amal charges that the PLO is trying to snatch back the military power base it lost in Lebanon after Israel's 1982 invasion and a 1983 revolt against Mr. Arafat's leadership by Syrian-backed Palestinians.

The PLO has accused Amal of seeking a Shiite canton in the south and of playing policeman for Israel in the area. It also says Amal and the Syrians want to destroy Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. The latest camps war followed similar bouts of Amal-Palestinian violence last summer and in 1985.

Palestinian combat ability impresses Israel, page 2

Hints emerge of thaw in Beirut-Damascus ties

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Hints emerged on Monday of a possible thaw in official Syrian-Lebanese relations after an almost one-year-old strain. Prospects of reconciliation between President Amin Gemayel and Syrian Leader Hafez Al Assad rose after Prime Minister Rashid Karami said he would welcome a summit meeting. "We hope the summit will convene if it brings salvation," Mr. Karami told reporters on Sunday after meeting an envoy from Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam.

Mr. Karami has joined pro-Syrian cabinet ministers in refusing contact with Mr. Gemayel since the Maronite Christian president rejected a Syrian-backed peace plan for Lebanon last January. "If President Gemayel, with whom we share responsibility for Lebanon's fate, has chosen the Damascus road as a means to convene the cabinet, then we are with him," Mr. Karami said. Bankers said the paralysis of Mr. Karami's "national unity" government had contributed to a disastrous collapse of the

Syrians step up Tripoli manhunt

BEIRUT (R) — Syrian troops scouring villages in the rugged mountains of north Lebanon for militants were reinforced on Monday with tanks and extra men, police said.

They said the reinforcements joined a week-old manhunt for pro-Palestinian Muslim fundamentalists suspected of taking part in recent clashes with Syrian troops in Tripoli. Militants of the Tripoli-based Islamic Unification Movement (Tawheed) militia are thought to have taken refuge in remote villages in the Akkar region northeast of the port city and in the mountains of Danniye to the southeast.

Sheikh Hashem Minqara, one of Tawheed's self-styled "emirs," was reported captured last Friday after Syrian troops surrounded him in a valley near Bqarouna village. Seven of his men were killed before he and four others surrendered.



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor bid farewell to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and his wife Suzanne on Monday at the end of the Egyptian leader's 24-hour visit to Aqaba (Petra photos)



By Najwa Najjar Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Roman Catholic Cardinal John O'Connor of New York on Monday said he supported the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

During a visit to the ancient city of Jerash on the first full day of his three-day visit to Jordan, Cardinal O'Connor told newsmen accompanying him that it was his view and the view of the Vatican that the Palestinians were entitled to self-determination as a people.

It is a long-standing American view that all people in the world should have self-determination and this view goes back to the late American President Woodrow Wilson, said the cardinal.

Earlier, in a visit to the Biqaa refugee camp, the largest of 11 Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan, Cardinal O'Connor deplored the continuing Palestinian plight and denial to them of their basic human rights.

"I do not see why two peoples cannot live together as they did before. A just solution should be found for the right of each people," said Cardinal O'Connor, referring to the Israeli and Palestinian people.

Monsignor Raouf Najjar, head of the Roman Catholic Church in Amman, who accompanied

U.S. and Iran discuss frozen assets and claims

THE HAGUE (Agencies) — U.S. and Iranian officials met on Monday to negotiate the return of more than \$500 million in frozen assets Iran seeks as a condition for interceding on behalf of American hostages in Lebanon.

Negotiators from the Iranian central bank and the New York Federal Reserve Bank met to work out the terms for return of \$506 million, plus interest, to Iran.

That amount represents Iran's overpayment into a \$3.67-billion fund held by the New York Fed for repayment of syndicated bank loans to Iran.

The Iran-U.S. tribunal had offered to arbitrate the issue of the surplus funds, known as Account One, but American and Iranian negotiators opted for a series of meetings this week to try to settle the issue themselves.

Two other series of meetings, in London and at The Hague, have been held in the last two months to work out conditions for releasing Account One that would absolve the New York Fed of any liability for its six-year management of the funds.

The United States has agreed in principle to repayment of Account One, although there are reportedly still a small amount of unpaid syndicated loans to be settled. Account One has taken on added significance because

Cabinet funds camps' projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has decided to spend JD 37,800 on a number of projects at Palestinian refugee camps in the Kingdom. According to the Jordan News Agency, the decision was taken upon recommendation by Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Mr. Marwan Dudin. It said that JD 10,000 will be spent on paving the roads of Souf refugee camp, JD 12,000 for asphaltting the Jerash refugee camp road, JD 1,500 for establishing a library for the youth club at Prince Hassan Camp, and JD 2500 for establishing a centre for the handicapped at Azmi Al Mufti martyr camp, JD 3000 for building a police station at Hittin camp, and JD 6,000 for lighting the same camp, JD 3000 for building a mosque for Jerash camp, JD 2000 for helping the needy in different camps, and JD 500 for supporting children centres at different camps.

Mujahedeen-e-Khalq reports 35,000 Iranian casualties

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

A M M A N — The Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, the major Iranian group opposed to the Tehran regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, said Monday that at least 35,000 Iranian soldiers were killed or wounded in last week's blunted thrust into southern Iraq.

The group, in a statement telecast to the Jordan Times, quoted Mujahedeen supporters in the Iranian armed forces for the casualty figure.

"The Khomeini regime's latest offensive against Iraqi territory was a complete failure," the statement quoted its sources as saying.

In addition to the thousands of killed or wounded, the death toll was mounting because of severe problems transferring the wounded from the front line to hospitals, the statement said.

Iraq has said that more than 32,000 Iranian soldiers were killed or wounded in the two-day Iranian thrust, which was launched Wednesday night, and reporters visiting the battlefield

on Saturday said they counted hundreds of Iranian corpses littering the area of floating in the Shatt Al Arab waterway.

Iraq has said that the Iranian assault was aimed at its southern port of Basra after taking the Umm Al Rassas island in the waterway. The island was recaptured by the Iraqis Friday morning.

The Mujahedeen statement named 14 Iranian divisions and four brigades that took part in the attack and said the ill-fated offensive was planned by Iran's parliamentary speaker, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The regime's objective in this offensive was to cross the Shatt Al Arab waterway and cut off the Fao-Basra highway, the statement said. "On that same day, Rafsanjani had promised a large offensive at the front. But, subsequent to the complete defeat of the offensive — 16 hours after it was launched and reported by most news agencies — in an attempt to cover up its disastrous defeat, the regime announced in its media that this was a limited and diversionary assault."

O'Connor backs Palestinian self-determination

Cardinal O'Connor on the visit, said the archbishop of New York was "moved by the kind of life he saw there (at the Biqaa camp) and said every people should have the right to live in their own land."

"I think that no-one can spend any time out here without suffering with the Palestinian people and recognising the very crucial need," the cardinal said. His trip to the camp was part of his programme in Jordan in his capacity as president of the Near East National Catholic Welfare Organisation (NENCWO), which supports several relief programmes for Palestinian refugees.

The cardinal toured the camp, watched several classes in progress in schools run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees, and visited a maternity clinic.

He was quoted as saying by AP that he had seen improvements since last visiting the camp six years ago, and that he was "glad UNRWA is doing as well as it's doing, helped by the pontifical mission to Palestine."

But he added: "How long will these people have to live as refugees? That's the essential question that is raised."

He said he had decided to tour the camp because "it is incumbent on anybody who feels any kind of

Haniyeh predicts stepped-up anti-Arab drive in West Bank

GENEVA (AP) — A Palestinian newspaper editor reported by the Israeli occupation authorities in defiance of International Red Cross protests said on Monday he believes his expulsion is the first move in a stepped up Israeli campaign against all Arab institutions in the occupied territories.

Akram Haniyeh, editor of the East Jerusalem Al Shaab daily, also renewed his denial of Israeli charges that he was a top official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"Like any Palestinian, I am a supporter of the PLO," Mr. Haniyeh said in an interview with AP. "But the accusations that I was involved in PLO activities, that I was a senior official, are just untrue."

He said he was deported because "they are afraid of my word." "They don't want me to express my people's sufferings, my people's dreams of independence. My expulsion is the first shot in a very aggressive campaign against the press and against all other Arab institutions in the occupied territories," he said. He feared that in the next few months many Arab publications will be closed by the Israelis, he added.

Mr. Haniyeh, 33 and a bachelor, said he has "only one plan and that is to go back home."

"I can't live outside my country and I can't work outside my country."

He said he hopes to enlist the support of the International Press Institute in London, the International Federation of Journalists in Brussels and the Prague-based International Union of Journalists in his efforts to return.

He said such support might give him a chance although he knew only of one case in which an Arab deportee was allowed by Israel to return. The Geneva-based all-Swiss International Committee of the Red Cross has denounced his expulsion as a new violation by Israel of the Geneva Convention on the treatment of civilians in occupied territories.

Mr. Haniyeh said "working conditions for the Arab press under Israeli control were 'terrible' and frustrating. "Your word does not reach the reader because the best articles are only read by you and the censor." But he said that he and his Arab colleagues feel that even if their word is reduced to "five per cent, it is still worth it."

He said he dropped a supreme court appeal against his expulsion because his lawyer was refused to see the evidence against him and because Israel maintained that the Geneva Convention was not applicable.

"I did not want to be an actor in a boring play," he said. He said Algerian authorities had agreed to give him temporary refuge.

Palestinian combat ability in Lebanon impresses Israelis

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli army has been highly impressed by the combat performance of Palestinian commandos against the Shi'ite Amal militia in Lebanon over past weeks, senior military sources said Monday.

They told foreign correspondents that Israel felt the Palestinians clearly outclassed Amal in fighting around the South Lebanon port of Sidon and still had the power to dictate the course of battle.

The sources spoke at a special briefing for overseas reporters, who are rarely offered direct insight into top-level Israeli military thinking. The briefing was on condition that spokesmen be neither identified nor quoted directly.

The Israeli military believes Palestinian successes may now prompt neutral Lebanese factions to back Amal for fear of a resurgence of Palestinian power in Lebanon, the sources said.

They said Israel would prefer an Amal victory as a lesser danger than the movement's close ties with Syria made cooperation impossible even if Israel wanted it.

Israel believes Palestinian forces will remain the upper hand for the time being except in the case of an unlikely direct intervention by Syria, the sources said.

But in the long term Israel feels that superior Shi'ite manpower reserves could change the situation in an inevitable new

round of all-out fighting, possibly in the coming year.

The sources said Israeli specialists, analysing fighting for the strategic town of Maghdoush near Sidon, felt that the Palestinians showed unprecedented ability to manoeuvre separate forces and first-class leadership qualities in the field.

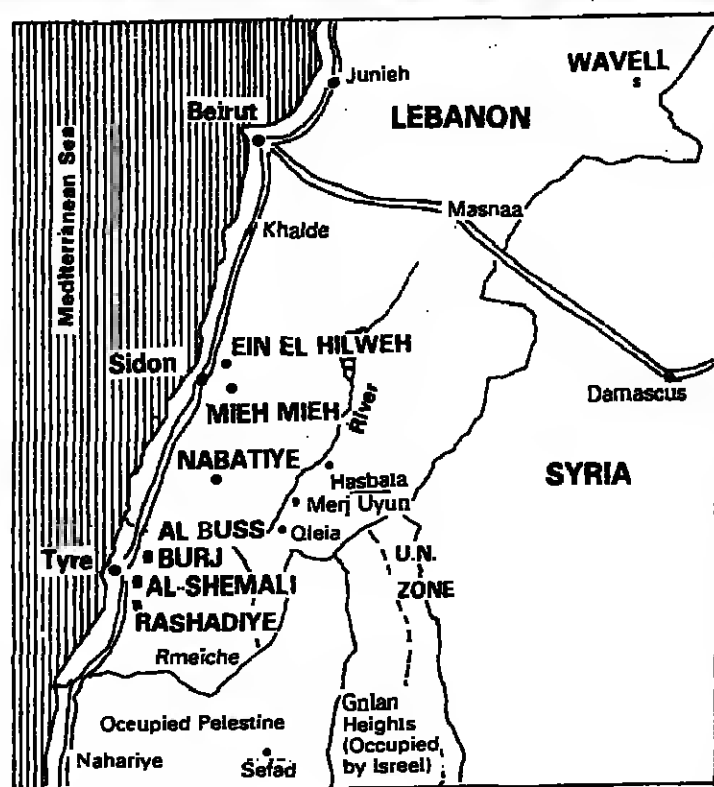
The outstanding force was Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat's own Fatah group, which rallied behind all Palestinian fighting organisations save those loyal to Syria, the sources said.

But Israel believes unity in the field failed to narrow differences between Mr. Arafat and groups which reject his leadership of the PLO.

Mr. Arafat strengthened his own position within Fatah, however, and narrowed divisions between opposing factions, the Israeli sources said.

In a separate development Israeli Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon warned Syria Sunday not to engage Israel in chemical warfare, Israel Radio reported.

"If the Syrians use chemical weapons (against Israel) they will face a strong Israeli reaction," he was quoted as saying, "but the



report did not elaborate.

"We are preparing the army not only to defend itself against chemical weapons but also to continue fighting under chemical warfare conditions. We are also preparing the civilian population which may be a target for ... chemical weapons," he said.

Army sources speaking on condition of anonymity in accordance with military regulations believe Syria is equipped with Tabun and Sarin, highly toxic nerve gases even small doses of which can cause convulsions, paralysis and death.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said earlier this month that Syria's chemical weapons delivery systems include ground-to-ground missiles, artillery shells and bombs.

According to another senior military source, during the 1982 war in Lebanon Israeli troops fighting on the eastern front encountered traces of poison gas, which were later found to come from ruptured containers belonging to a Syrian chemical warfare unit.

Gen. Levy has ordered that every army manoeuvre include chemical warfare defence exercises.

In September, the army carried out large-scale manoeuvres during which the port city of Haifa 100 kilometres north of Tel Aviv faced a simulated chemical attack.

Senior military sources have also said that chemical warfare defence training will be given throughout Israel's schools.

Egyptian election system is under scrutiny

CAIRO (R) — A court ruling this week may pose a challenge to the Egyptian electoral system which gave President Hosni Mubarak's party a huge majority in parliament.

Polls in 1984 handed the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) 391 of the 448 elected seats in the People's Assembly.

Leftist parties were crushingly defeated and the rightwing New Wafd Party, with 57 seats, became the largest opposition caucus.

During the campaign, Kamal Khaled, a lawyer, challenged rules that require all candidates to be members of a political party and say any party must win at least eight per cent of the national vote to occupy seats in wins.

On April 15, 1984, he filed a lawsuit accusing the government of denying him the right to stand as an independent.

Khaled's case moved from one court to another until it reached the supreme constitutional court, whose ruling next Saturday will be final.

The issue has sparked a row in parliament and debate has raged in newspapers on whether a verdict in Khaled's favour would put the constitutionality of the present parliament in question.

Most lawyers agree that there will be no need for dissolution of the People's Assembly if Khaled wins. But the NDP, of which Mr. Mubarak is president, last week introduced a compromise bill to change the electoral system — apparently anticipating an unfavourable court ruling.

The party says it wants a mix of the existing party slate system and individual candidacies.

The bill proposes that 48 constituencies be set aside for independent candidates, while seats would apply in the other 400. It also calls for abolition of 30 seats reserved for women, saying they no longer need special treatment.

The bill, still under debate in parliament, is strongly criticised by the opposition, which wants a complete change in the system rather than a tinkering with the old one.

Some members have branded the present rules undemocratic and others have called for British-style elections in which people can stand for seats without necessarily having party affiliations.

The new argument follows a dispute between the government and opposition leaders who boycotted elections last October for the Shura (consultative) Council — a powerless debating chamber.

"It has become apparent that there is something wrong with the election system in Egypt. Both the government and the opposition agree it must be corrected," columnist Fahim Ghanim wrote in the political review Rose El Youssef.

Shamir cleared in Shin Bet scandal

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has emerged unscathed from the Shin Bet security agency scandal in which no one is likely to face trial for the killing of two Arab bus hijackers and a cover-up of how they died.

More than two years after the Israeli Hadashot daily defied military censors by publishing photographs of the frightened gunmen being led to their deaths, one of the country's worst scandals has come to what another newspaper Monday called a "happy end."

On Sunday night, a Justice Ministry report based on police findings cleared Shamir of sanctioning or helping Shin Bet cover up the killing of the two Arabs captured after they commandeered a civilian bus to occupied Gaza in April 1984.

As prime minister at the time, Shamir was responsible for activities of the internal security agency.

Two previous inquiries found the gunmen were beaten to death by interrogators after Israeli troops stormed the vehicle. Another two hijackers were killed during the Israeli assault.

No one has been indicted in the scandal and legal experts said it was unlikely any charges would ever be filed.

"It appears the affair... has reached its end," said Immigration Minister Yaakov Tzur of the Labour Party.

Retired General Meir Zorea, who led the first of three inquiries into the hijacking, reacted bitterly to the failure to prosecute Shin Bet officials.

He said on armed forces radio that Israel's moral values had gone "down the drain" when President Chaim Herzog pardoned Shin Bet chief Avraham Shalom and 10

other agency officials last summer. In his request for amnesty, Shalom said he acted "with permission and authority" — an apparent reference to Shamir. The Justice Ministry report carried on state television dismissed Shalom's statements as contradictory, untrustworthy and confused.

"This entire exercise was carried out in order to bail out Shin Bet... it just is not done in a proper country," Zorea said about the amnesty.

Government leaders said they pushed for pardons in an effort to avoid judicial hearings in which the secret workings of Shin Bet might leak to the public.

The amnesty, however, also ended a coalition crisis touched off by the scandal and paved the way for then Prime Minister Shimon Peres to hand over power last October to Shamir under an agreement signed after an inconclusive general election in 1984.

But public pressure led to a police investigation last July upon which justice officials based their current findings.

"It seems to me it was a mistake to... try to prevent an investigation and then to have an inquiry after pardons were granted," Tzur told state radio.

"If time could be rolled back, I would say that from the start, the affair should have been investigated and exposed," he said.

Shamir, leader of the right-wing Likud Party, was at the forefront of opposition to a third inquiry into the affair.

"Yitzhak Shamir knew in his heart what we all know now... that he was completely clean," said Likud Parliamentarian Dan Meridor.

"Nevertheless, he thought it

was not worthwhile to open this whole affair to public examination which would cause grave damage to the security services," Meridor said.

In a scathing editorial on the government's handling of the affair, the left-wing Al Hamishmar newspaper said there was no excuse for granting amnesty to the Shin Bet officials before any charges were filed.

"In accordance with law and justice, they should have been arrested by police and put on trial on suspicion of committing the most serious crimes," it said.

The newspaper added: "It is inconceivable that in a law-abiding country (citizens) can escape justice only because they headed a secret organisation or possessed large amounts of classified information."

The Justice Ministry report was prepared at the end of the third investigation into the scandal.

In May 1984, a Defence Ministry inquiry led by Gen. Zorea recommended that Brig. Yitzhak Mordechai, then chief paratrooper and infantry officer, face court martial on suspicion he pistol-whipped one of the hijackers to death.

Another inquiry in April 1985 by State Attorney Yonah Blattman upheld that recommendation.

A military judge acquitted the general in August 1985 and Mordechai is now chief of Israel's Southern Command.

Police launched their investigation last July after Reuven Hazak, deputy chief of Shin Bet, told Peres that Shalom had ordered the captured guerrillas killed and then fabricated evidence implicating Mordechai and exonerating Shin Bet.

Iran rules out accord with U.S.

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iranian Prime Minister Hussein Musavi has ruled out any resumption of relations with the United States and accused the Soviet Union of preventing better relations between Iran and Eastern Europe, Iran's official news agency reported.

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia, quoted Mr. Musavi as saying when he delivered his government budget to the Majlis, Iran's parliament: "There will be no reconciliation on our side with the United States."

The IRNA report did not elaborate, but Mr. Musavi's blunt declaration followed tough anti-American statements in recent weeks by other Iranian leaders.

They followed disclosures that President Ronald Reagan secretly shipped arms to Iran in a bid to patch up relations severed in 1979.

Majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, a key aide, of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, last month ruled out high-level contacts with Washington because they were "incompatible with the aspirations that we have insisted upon."

He noted the "considerable pressure" on Iran's war-battered economy caused by this year's plunge in the price of oil, Iran's

main revenue earner.

Mr. Musavi charged the price fall was a "conspiracy by the United States, Western industrial countries and reactionary leaders in the region" to force Iran to the negotiating table in the 6-year-old Gulf war with Iran, IRNA reported.

He claimed a punishing Iraqi air offensive against Iran's industrial centres and its vital oil exports, its economic lifeline, was "guided by the CIA."

This was an apparent reference to U.S. disclosures that Washington had provided Iraq with U.S. spy satellite intelligence.

"IRNA quoted Mr. Musavi as telling parliament: 'Most of the European countries are too hostile towards the Islamic Revolution so that we cannot have normal relations with them... improved relations with these countries would depend on a change in their attitude.'"

He added: "We believe that our relations with East Bloc countries can be improved."

"We believe also that the Soviet government specifically is responsible for a lack of suitable growth of relations with the East Bloc."

The IRNA despatch did not elaborate.

The Iranians signed a major economic agreement with the Soviets last month. It included

joint industrial and economic projects, including the resumption of natural gas supplied cut off in 1980 when Tehran-Moscow relations were strained.

However, Iran has sought to keep the Soviets at arms length and demanded an immediate withdrawal of Soviet forces from neighbouring Afghanistan.

IRNA said Mr. Musavi stressed Sunday: "In Afghanistan we want a non-aligned and anti-American system of government to come to power, relying on the will of the Muslim people of the country."

Mr. Musavi conceded that Iran's economic problems have "naturally brought about certain hardship." But he stressed that "the Islamic Republic is standing firmly on its own feet."

He claimed that despite Iraqi attacks on Iran's oil industry, "the Islamic Republic's production and export capabilities have not only not declined, but increased and its installations have been made more invulnerable."

He said economic problems have not diverted his government from its policies. He stressed that despite "current difficulties," Iran was "devoting the maximum amount of foreign and Iranian currencies to the continued holy defence" of the nation.

IRNA did not cite any overall statistics for the budget.

Israel postpones Demjanjuk trial for a month

TEL AVIV (AP) — The judges in the trial of John Demjanjuk, a retired auto worker from Ohio, acceded to the request of the defence Monday and postponed for one month the next hearing in the case, the Israeli News Agency ITIM reported.

The hearing scheduled for Jan. 19 was moved to Feb. 16, ITIM said. The trial, only the second Nazi war crimes trial in the Jewish state, is presided over by a special three-judge panel. It technically began Nov. 19 with one brief hearing.

Demjanjuk's attorney, Mark O'Connor of Buffalo, N.Y., asked for the postponement to give him sufficient time to study the prosecution material, ITIM said.

O'Connor, who is out of the country, was represented in court by an Israeli attorney, Yoram Shefiel. The judges noted that this "apparently indicates that the problem of finding an Israeli lawyer to assist O'Connor had been solved," ITIM reported.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	22:00	Evening Show Contd.
7:30	23:00	News Summary
8:00	23:30	Evening Show Contd.
8:30	24:00	News Headlines
9:00	24:30	Close down
PROGRAMME ONE		
15:30		Koran
15:50		Programme review
16:10		Cartoons
16:30		Children programmes
17:00		Cutler to Houston
18:00		Religious programme (Fatawa)
18:30		Arabic series
19:25		News programme
19:50		Programme review
20:00		News in Arabic
20:30		Arabic series
21:30		Tomorrow's programme
21:55		Local varieties programme
22:00		News summary in Arabic
22:30		Close down
PROGRAMME TWO		
17:30		Merci Apokine
18:00		News in French
19:15		L'avalée des peupliers
19:30		News in Hebrew
19:45		Varieties
20:00		News summary
20:30		The Count of Monte Cristo
21:30		Yes, Prime Minister
22:00		News in English
22:30		Simon and Simon
RADIO JORDAN		
8.55 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM		
& partly on 95.0 KHz. SW		
774111-19		
07:00		Light Music
07:30		News Desk
08:00		Morning Show
10:00		News Summary
10:05		Morning Show Contd.
11:00		Religious
11:05		Your Health
11:30		Morning Show
12:00		News Summary
12:05		Readings
12:30		Pop Session
13:00		News Summary
13:05		Pop Session Contd.
14:00		News Bulletin
14:10		Instrumentals
14:30		News Summary
14:35		News Music
15:00		Concert Hour
16:00		News Summary
16:05		Instrumentals, Old Favourites
17:00		Science Report
17:30		Pop Session
18:00		News Summary
18:05		Top Twenty
19:00		Newsdesk
19:30		Date with a Star
20:00		Evening Show
20:05		Evening Show Contd.
21:00		News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	EXHIBITIONS	CHURCHES	CULTURAL CENTRES	MUSEUMS	PRAYER TIMES
An exhibition of architectural paintings of Iraq Al Amir by Francois Larche and Jean-Pierre Lange at the Architecture Gallery - Reza Centre, Jabel Amman (until Jan. 10).	A painting exhibition entitled: "On the Banks of Jordan" at the National Gallery, Jabel Luweibeh (until Jan. 23).	St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel. 634590.	Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267	Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also money from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.	05:00 Fajr 06:57 Sunrise 11:30 Dhuhr 14:22 Asr 16:30 Maghrib 18:07 Isha
An exhibition of oil paintings from the Soviet Republic of Armenia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Jan. 2).	An exhibition of oil paintings from the Soviet Republic of Armenia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 31).	St. George Church (Greek Orthodox) Jabel Amman, Tel. 623541.	American Centre Tel. 641520		
An exhibition of oil paintings from the Soviet Republic of Armenia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 31).	An exhibition of oil paintings from the Soviet Republic of Armenia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 31).	St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Amman, Tel. 771751.	British Council Tel. 6361478		
An exhibition of oil paintings from the Soviet Republic of Armenia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 31).	An exhibition of oil paintings from the Soviet Republic of Armenia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 31).	St. Raphael Church (Greek Orthodox) Amman, Tel. 623541.	French Cultural Centre Tel. 637000		
An exhibition of oil paintings from the Soviet Republic of Armenia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 31).	An exhibition of oil paintings from the Soviet Republic of Armenia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 31).	St. Raphael Church (Greek Orthodox) Amman, Tel. 623541.	German Institute Tel. 641993		
An exhibition of oil paintings from the Soviet Republic of Armenia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 31).	An exhibition of oil paintings from the Soviet Republic of Armenia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 31).	St. Raphael Church (Greek Orthodox) Amman, Tel. 623541.	Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 644203		
An exhibition of oil paintings from the Soviet Republic of Armenia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 31).	An exhibition of oil paintings from the Soviet Republic of Armenia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 31).	St. Raphael Church (Greek Orthodox) Amman, Tel. 623541.	Spanish Cultural Centre Tel. 620409		
An exhibition of oil paintings from the Soviet Republic of Armenia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 31).	An exhibition of oil paintings from the Soviet Republic of Armenia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 31).	St. Raphael Church (Greek Orthodox) Amman, Tel. 623541.	Turkish Cultural Centre Tel. 637777		
An exhibition of oil paintings from the Soviet Republic of Armenia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 31).	An exhibition of oil paintings from the Soviet Republic of Armenia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 31).	St. Raphael Church (Greek Orthodox) Amman, Tel. 623541.	Haya Ara Centre Tel. 641595		
An exhibition of oil paintings from the Soviet Republic of Armenia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 31).	An exhibition of oil paintings from the Soviet Republic of Armenia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 31).	St. Raphael Church (Greek Orthodox) Amman, Tel. 623541.	Yamouk Centre Tel. 641793		
An exhibition of oil paintings from the Soviet Republic of Armenia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 31).	An exhibition of oil paintings from the Soviet Republic of Armenia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 31).	St. Raphael Church (Greek Orthodox) Amman, Tel. 623541.	Y.W.M.C.A. Tel. 641793		
An exhibition of oil paintings from the Soviet Republic of Armenia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 31).	An exhibition of oil paintings from the Soviet Republic of Armenia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 31).	St. Raphael Church (Greek Orthodox) Amman, Tel. 623541.	Yamouk Centre Tel. 641793		
An exhibition of oil paintings from the Soviet Republic of Armenia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 31).	An exhibition of oil paintings from the Soviet Republic of Armenia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 31).	St. Raphael Church (Greek Orthodox) Amman, Tel. 623541.	Yamouk Centre Tel. 641793		

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	MARITIME TRAFFIC	ARRIVALS	OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	DEPARTURES	OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.	Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:	05:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RU) 09:00 Agaba (RU) 09:20 Cairo (RU) 09:25 Jeddah (RU) 10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RU) 10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RU) 10:00 New York, Vienna (RU) 10:00 Athens (RU) 10:00 Paris, Brussels (RU) 10:00 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RU) 10:00 Istanbul (RU) 10:00 Tripoli (RU) 10:00 Rome (RU)	11:35 Cairo (MS) 12:05 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF) 12:30 Moscow (SU) 13:45 Kuwait (KU) 15:10 Riyadh (SV) 15:05 Rome, Damascus (AZ) 20:00 Zurich, Larnaca (SR) 21:00 Frankfurt (LH)	06:45 Agaba (RU) 08:45 Rome (RU) 11:00 Tripoli (RU) 11:00 Amsterdam, New York (RU) 11:00 Athens (RU) 11:05 Belgrade, Madrid (RU) 12:00 Geneva, London (RU) 12:45 Istanbul (RU) 20:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RU) 21:15 Cairo (RU) 21:15 Damascus (RU) 21:30 Kuwait (RU) 22:00 Bangkok (RU)	06:45 Agaba (RU) 08:45 Rome (RU) 11:00 Tripoli (RU) 11:00 Amsterdam, New York (RU) 11:00 Athens (RU) 11:05 Belgrade, Madrid (RU) 12:00 Geneva, London (RU) 12:45 Istanbul (RU) 20:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RU) 21:15 Cairo (RU) 21:15 Damascus (RU) 21:30 Kuwait (RU) 22:00 Bangkok (RU)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate	891,228
Amman civil defence	198, 199
Civil Defence Irbid	271293, 273131
Civil Defence Qawwash	770733
Civil Defence Deir Alla	57306
Ambulance	193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade	198
First aid	630341
Blood bank	778303
Civil Defence rescue	661111
Fire headquarters	622090-3
Police rescue	192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters	639141
Traffic police	896309
Electric Power Co. 6363814, 624881	
Municipal water complaints	771125/8
Queen Alia Int. Airport (08)53330/60	

HOSPITALS

Husseini Medical Centre	81381/322
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn	64481/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amman	64244/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	622662
Mafes, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeinal	664171/4
Shamdan Hospital	842400
University Hospital	84584/565
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Infant, Al-Muasher	771701/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/15
Army, Marka	391611/5
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Mohammad Lebadeh	896560

Dr. Saleh Al	(—)
Natash pharmacy	668056
Neroukh pharmacy	623672
Firas pharmacy	661912
Hinawi pharmacy	845576
Khalaf pharmacy	778653

TAXIS:

Keytaxi taxi	666030
Tamira taxi	664680
Tamir taxi	666417
Amman taxi	842474
Raghad taxi	842400
Raghad taxi	736428
Sayel taxi	776131

IRBID:

Dr. Simon Qasrawi	(—)
Hameed Al-Hamdan pharmacy	(—)
Al Waleed pharmacy	(—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Tareq Hijawi	986443
Khalaf pharmacy	(—)
Muawash pharmacy	(—)

GENERAL

Jordan Television	773111/9
Radio Jordan	774111/9
Ministry of Tourism	642311
Hotel complaints	666412
Price complaints	666176
Telephone Information	12
Jordan and Middle East calls	10
Overseas calls	11
Repair service	11

MARKET PRICES

Upper/low price in fils per kg.

Apple (double red and sturken)	
Apple	280 / 240
Apple (golden)	280 / 240
Apple (green)	180 / 120
Banana	300 / 260
Banana (Mukannas)	250 / 220
Beans	230 / 180
Beetroot	150 / 100
Cabbage	90 / 60
Carrot (black)	160 / 120
Carrot (yellow)	120 / 80
Cauliflower	100 / 60
Chestnut	600 / 550
Cucumbers	420 / 380

Eggplant (large)	160 / 120
Garlic	600 / 550
Grapefruit	110 / 80
Lemon	90 / 60
Marrow	170 / 120
Onion (dry)	180 / 140
Onion (green)	140 / 100
Orange (Abu Surra)	260 / 200
Orange (Shammout)	200 / 150
Pepper (hot)	320 / 280
Pepper (sweet)	450 / 400
Potato (Kazupad)	180 / 140
Potato (local)	220 / 160
Spinach	150 / 100
Tomatoes	220 / 160

Home news

Seminar participants stress need to address problems of population growth

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Shedding more light on the socio-economic and demographic impacts accompanying Jordan's rapid population growth rate of 3.8 per cent, a group of Jordanian researchers have questioned the health and educational policies regarding family planning and birth control.

Improvements in the quality of life, health care, recent medical advances were factors to lead to an imbalance in Jordan's demographic transition (an equilibrium between birth and death rates). Furthermore, and as a result of these factors, child mortality rate which was 151 per thousand in 1961, dropped to 60 per thousand by 1984, and life expectancy has rapidly increased in 1984 to 67 years and 71 years for male and female respectively, from the previous 1961 averages of 45.8 years per male and 46.5 per female.

Based on these figures, Dr. Sami Khoury, from the University of Jordan Faculty of Medicine, claimed that Jordan's East Bank population is doubling every 17.5 years and in 1984 reached a total of 595,112.

Dr. Fihed Al Fanek, a senior researcher at the Arab Thought Forum (ATF), conceded that if the present population pattern continues, Jordan's population will double by 64 folds to reach 176 million in 2087.

Both Dr. Khoury and Dr. Fanek's remarks were made during a specialised symposium on the local effects of Jordan's JD 4.19 billion 1986-1990 development plan for the East and West Banks, which opened here on Sunday.

Dr. Fanek, together with Dr. Ahmad Hamoudah, from the University of Jordan, agreed that the education factor was the main socio-economic determinant for birth control.

Dr. Hamoudah, who was discussing the educational schemes included in the five-year development plan, said that the role of education vis-a-vis fertility, and the women's role regarding family planning, were not given any attention on the level of introducing new textbooks tackling this issue.

Dr. Khoury, who submitted a working paper on the health projects included in the 5-year development plan, called for strong measures to be adopted on the issue of the spacing of

pregnancies, a procedure adopted in other countries to control family planning and birth rates.

He said that the developing countries in general were facing a sharp decline in death rates and this has led to numerous demographic results such as 50 per cent of their total populations being under the age of 15.

"Having more than 50 per cent of any population under 15 years of age creates numerous social and care responsibilities which we should shoulder and which consumes a large portion of our limited local revenues," he said.

The amounts to be allocated for offering social and health care services to this sector of the society will also limit expenditure on other valuable goals, such as increasing industrial and commercial productivity and providing health care to families and senior citizens, added Dr. Khoury.

Dr. Khoury, who maintained that in the industrialised countries the demographic transition took an average of 200 years to be achieved, was later asked by Dr. Fanek on the steps to be taken by the government to cover the gap between death and birth rates in 20 years and not in two hundred years. Replying to the query, Dr. Khoury said that developed nations had achieved the demographic transition over 200 years which gave them a better opportunity to tackle all health and social problems resulting from the change. This gave them time to strike a balance between investments in industrial projects and in social welfare.

Dr. Khoury, in his paper, however, said that the demographic transition is a pattern to be considered when discussing future demographic and population factors in any of the world's countries.

Monday's session

The three-day symposium continued its deliberations on Monday at the University of Jordan Faculty of Engineering and Technological Sciences. The event is jointly organised by the University's Centre for Population Studies and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).

During the morning session, which was chaired by Dr. Jawad Al Anani, president of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), two working papers were submitted to the conference, tackling the

development plan's labour and manpower policies.

Dr. Issa Ibrahim, from the RSS, in his paper on "The Impact of the Development Plan's Labour Policy on the Population," discussed the labour goals of the scheme. He said the plan aims at developing the local manpower, adjusting the structural imbalance in the labour market, and organising the imports and exports sector, in a manner to suit the country's socio-economic needs, as well as the requirements of neighbouring Arab countries.

Monday's afternoon session was chaired by Dr. Mohammad Al Saqour, director of the National Aid Fund. Dr. Laila Khoudairy, professor at the University of Jordan, submitted a working paper on the impacts of social development on the population.

Dr. Khoudairy's paper reviewed the present imbalance in the population's distribution, the rapid increase in population growth rates, and the socio-economic and educational hindup of the country's various social strata and working forces.

According to the seminar's official schedule as obtained by the Jordan Times, Tuesday's final session, to be chaired by Dr. Ahmad Al Qatnani, will discuss a working paper on the impact of Jordan's 1986-1990 development plan for the occupied territories.

The final session will also issue a communiqué, the schedule says. However, a dispatch carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on Monday evening said the symposium ended its deliberations. There was no University of Jordan official available for comment on whether the seminar ended on Monday or will end on Tuesday according to the official schedule which was distributed at the opening session on Sunday.

Petra quoted Dr. Fawzi Sahawneh, chairman of the committee that prepared for the symposium, as saying on Monday evening that the event helped to shed more light on the demographic dimensions from the health, education and social development aspects, and their relationship vis-a-vis the Kingdom's 1986-1990 development plan.

Dr. Sahawneh, who also is director of the population studies at the University of Jordan Faculty of Arts, said that the symposium's working papers will be available for all concerned private and public sector officials.

'Jordan Week' being held all this week in LA

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab-American community in Los Angeles — in cooperation with the Jordanian embassy and the Royal Jordanian Airlines — is hosting the Jordanian Art and Cultural Festival in Los Angeles, California, the week of Dec. 28 to Jan. 2.

The festival began with a formal Arabic dinner for 800 to 1000 persons at the Sheraton Premier Hotel on Sunday. Among the dignitaries attending was His Excellency Adnan Abu Odeh, minister of the Royal Court and advisor to His Majesty King Hussein.

A feature of the evening was a musical presentation and drills by the 150-member Jordanian Armed Forces Band, which is recognised as one of the most outstanding bands in the world. The Royal Jordanian Folklore Troupe also presented a programme of ethnic dance. Joining the troupe was a choir of American "Children of the World" who have been on a world concert tour for the cause of international peace.

Added feature of the evening

was a Jordanian fashion show titled "Jordan throughout history."

An exhibition of modern Jordanian art and dozens of rare Jordanian books was featured in the Sheraton Premier Hotel on Monday. The exhibition, presented under the patronage of Los Angeles City Eighth District Council Member Robert Farrell, was followed by indoor performance of the Royal Jordanian Marching Band and Folklore Troupe at Los Angeles City Hall. A reception at City Hall will follow the proclamation of Jordan Day by Mayor Tom Bradley.

On Tuesday, the Jordanian Armed Forces Band, further emphasising the cultural bridge between East and West, joins with bands from the United States, Japan and Canada to perform during a "Bandfest" at Pasadena City College Horrell Field. The band also will march in the Disneyland parade Wednesday.

Climaxing the week-long celebration, the band will participate in Pasadena's Rose Bowl Parade on New Year's Day.

Exhibition of Moroccan artist opens in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Her Highness Princess Wijdan Ali, a painting exhibition by the French-Moroccan artist Mehdi Quotbi, was held at the Alia Art Gallery on Monday. The exhibition, jointly organised by the French embassy and the Alia Art Gallery, runs until Jan. 4.

Quotbi is a young Moroccan

artist, who was born in Rabat in 1951. Now he lives and works in Paris. He has travelled extensively in America. His paintings reflect his native traditional Islamic culture with imagery drawn from the most advanced Western modern art. Using Arabic script as a basis, his canvases display arabesques of the most elegant and refined Islamic calligraphy.

Architectural week opens under patronage of Queen

AMMAN (J.T.) — The fourth architectural week organised by the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) will open Tuesday at the Professional Association complex in Amman under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The week-long activities to be held under the slogan — Amman ... the city and the citizen — include an architectural exhibition featuring architectural designs by various engineering offices owned by the private or the public sectors in Jordan. Also included is a symposium on Amman city, during which eight working

papers, covering the development of the city and the Greater Amman area, as well as the problems of transport, traffic, the capital's history, and future plans for its development, will be discussed.

The activities include a competition for the best architectural design of a yard, that will be built next to the Palace of Justice downtown, and an outing to differing sites around Amman.

Higher committee proposes steps to ease unemployment

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A higher ministerial committee, entrusted with the task of bringing about solutions to unemployment in Jordan, Monday held a meeting during which potential short-range remedies were assessed.

Creating what it called pre-service training centres, tightening grip on foreign labour force in the Kingdom, and absorbing 5,000 undergraduate job-seekers in the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC), were three main prospective solutions to unemployment discussed during the meeting, according to a well-placed official.

The official said that the projected pre-service training programme is bound to absorb about 7,000 to 8,000 job-seekers in four-month courses set to qualify them for new job vacancies. Asked whether potential trainees would be entitled to certain monthly allocations, the official, who spoke on condition he not be identified, said such a proposition would be discussed later.

On measures to regulate foreign labour — which a parliamentarian recently estimated to be more than 300,000 — the official said

the government has already launched a campaign to control the increasing number of foreign manpower in the country. Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan has recently visited Egypt — home of the bulk of Jordan's foreign labourers — to coordinate steps with Egyptian authorities, the official said. He estimated foreign labour force in Jordan to be "approximately 140,000."

According to the official, the government has already adopted certain mechanism under which local manpower will gradually replace foreign labourers, but it has not been implemented as yet.

On unemployment amongst postgraduates, primarily holders of medicine and engineering faculties degrees, the official said the government was planning an expansion of medical and engineering services with a view to absorb more of the unemployed postgraduates.

The VTC was also called upon to accommodate approximately 5,000 undergraduate job-seekers within a scheme geared to rehabilitate and qualify the unskilled people to fill in the unemployment gap, the official said.

The aforementioned short-term solutions will, it is hoped, absorb some 13,000 unemployed people, that is nearly half of the official unemployment rate in the Kingdom, the official noted.

On the recent trends of workers lay-off by certain institutions, low payments and other job problems, the official said the government is putting as a top priority addressing unemployment and related issues and concrete resolutions will be worked out in the near future.

Monday's meeting was attended by Minister of Finance Hanna Odeh, Minister of Education Thouqan Al Hindawi, Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad, Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh, Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh, Minister of Labour Khaled Al Haj Hassan, and the presidents of Jordanian universities, the Civil Service Commission (CSC), and the Director General of the Institute of Public Administration.

APU recommends stamp on Arabs in Jerusalem

AMMAN (Petra) — Executive board of the Arab Postal Union (APU) has recently recommended that Arab postal unions issue a special stamp reflecting the Arabism of the occupied city of Jerusalem and the steadfastness of its people in the face of the Israeli occupation. The board also approved a Jordanian proposal for issuing a special stamp, marking the octa-centennial anniversary of Hittin battle. Mr. Hashem Qudah, director of postal affairs department at the Ministry of Communication and head of Jordan's delegation to the 14th session of the APU, said on Monday.

Mr. Qudah added that participants discussed a number of subjects, including a Jordanian proposal for limiting the

acceptance of correspondence from outside the sender's country, with the aim of benefiting from the reduced tariffs. The executive board, Mr. Qudah added, has decided to increase monthly allocations for students enrolling at the Arab postal studies college by 50 per cent as of January 1987.

The board also recommended the issuance of a postal stamp to mark the Arab Communication Day and another stamp to mark the 75th anniversary of establishing Arab Scouts movement.

Among the other decisions, taken by the board during its December meeting, was the reappointment of Dr. Sadi Teilla to the post of dean of the Arab Postal College.

PSD to stress need for seat belts

AMMAN (J.T.) — A press conference will be held at noon today at the Public Security Department (PSD) for explaining the importance of using seat belts in cars. Several PSD officials will speak about the re-institution of regulations requiring all front car passengers and drivers to use safety seat belts. The ministry of interior has recently announced that drivers of private and public vehicles and passengers sitting in front seats will have to use seat belts on all roads in the Kingdom.

The regulations last year were relaxed when it was made known that the use of seat belts were required on highways, but the use of seat belts on all roads became necessary in view of the increase in the number of accidents.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Crown Prince condoles Saqqaf family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday delegated Amman Governor Ahmad Hindawi to convey his condolences to the Saqqaf family over the death of the late Abdullah Hashem Al Saqqaf. Prince Hassan also delegated Tafleh police director to convey his condolences to Al Ota family over the death of the late Nayef Saleh Al Ota.

Fayez calls for Lower House session

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayez Monday called for the House to meet on Wednesday to discuss the draft budget law for the fiscal year 1987.

Ministry to limit importation of foodstuffs

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ministry of Supply Under Secretary Abdullah Hawamdeh has said that the ministry will limit the importation of basic foodstuffs, including wheat, flour, rice, sugar and fresh meat to only the ministry. The ministry's measure is aimed at protecting citizens and avoiding any food crises and fluctuations of prices. Mr. Hawamdeh added that the ministry's supply policy is based on providing sufficient quantities of foodstuffs at reasonable prices. He went on saying that the Ministry of Supply will provide a reserve of basic foodstuffs, sufficient for at least six months.

Mubarak ends visit to Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

President Mubarak reportedly received Fatch Central Committee member Hani Al Hassan few days prior to the Aqaba summit. But the sources in Amman denied that the PLO had conveyed any message to Jordan that could lead to a resumption of the Jordan-PLO coordination.

"It is rather inaccurate to say that the Egyptian government is acting as a go-between," said a Jordanian analyst. "After all, contacts have continued between Jordan and the PLO despite the collapse of the joint peace effort last February," he added.

Upon his departure from Aqaba on Monday, President Mubarak, who was accompanied by his wife Suzanne and political adviser Osama A' Baz in addition to Dr. Abdul Meguid, was seen off by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Odeh, Foreign Minister Taher Al Marri and Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Ihab Wahbeh, as well as local officials in Aqaba were also present at

Aqaba airport to bid farewell to the Egyptian leader.

The Egyptian president's talks were also believed to have centred on means to arrive at a unified Arab stand on issues to be tackled by the summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), scheduled to be held in Kuwait on Jan. 26.

As the Egyptian presidential plane left Jordanian airspace, Mr. Mubarak sent a cable of thanks expressing his gratitude to the King for the hospitality and warm welcome accorded to him during his visit to Jordan.

In his cable, President Mubarak said "the spirit of friendliness and complete frankness" had dominated his talks with King Hussein.

President Mubarak added that the talks "stressed anew the positive, firm and constructive positions of both Egypt and Jordan, which contribute to the security and stability of the whole region and the welfare of its people."

President Mubarak also expressed his best wishes for King Hussein.

Police departments to renew drivers licences

AMMAN (Petra) — Muhajirin and Bayader police departments will receive applications from citizens wishing to renew their second and third categories driving licences as of Jan. 3, Public Security Directorate (PSD) sources said on Monday. The new measure aims at facilitating renewal of driving licences for construction, agricultural, and private vehicle categories.

For processing applications, the PSD stipulated that applicants' old licences should have been issued by the licensing department in Amman and that applicants be residents of the areas where these two police centres are located.

Aqaba workers move to new housing estate

AQABA (Petra) — Unmarried workers living in the Aqaba are being moved to a newly built housing estate in the suburbs of the city called Al Rahieh, according to Mr. Bassam Qaqish, president of the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA).

Mr. Qaqish said that the move, in implementation of orders by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, was going on smoothly and in full cooperation with the single residents of the city and the organisations employing them.

Gen. Zaid graduates pilots

AMMAN (Petra) — A celebration was held here Monday under the patronage of the Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker for the graduation of a number of airforce pilots.

The graduates received their wings from Gen. Zaid, who also distributed awards to those excelling in their training courses.

Gen. Zaid also handed the cup, other awards, and rakawondo belts to those who successfully completed their courses.

The ceremony was attended by Army Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Fathi Abu Taleb and senior Royal Jordanian Air Force officers.

Applicants should produce the driving licence to be renewed, a valid passport or family book, or civil registration identity card, a medical certificate from one of the health centres designated by Ministry of Health, in addition to the renewal fees of JD 18.850.

Foreigners holding annual work permits in Jordan should produce their passports, together with a valid residence permit and two photos. The two assigned police centres will receive renewal requests from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m.

The new measure will be later applicable in other police departments throughout the Kingdom, the sources added.

The workers employed by various private and public organisations in Aqaba are being housed in units of three different categories within the housing estate, which has a cafeteria, a shopping centre, a cinema, offices, banks, a police station, a health clinic and means of transport operating day and night, according to Mr. Qaqish.

The unmarried workers are being moved for organisational purposes in the city and to separate them from homes of married residents. According to Mr. Qaqish, they will be paying reasonable rates for accommodation and the food services.

Trade delegation to visit Sudan

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian trade delegation will go to Sudan on Saturday for a five-day visit and talks on promoting Jordanian-Sudanese trade links. The delegation, which will be led by Undersecretary of the Ministry of Supply Mr. Abdullah Al Hawamdeh, will hold talks with Sudanese officials pertaining to increasing the volume of trade between the two countries, and will visit a number of Sudanese institutions.

The delegation will include representatives of the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Industry and Trade.

GRINDLAYS BANK, WHICH ALREADY PROVIDES THE LARGEST NETWORK OF BRANCHES OF ANY FOREIGN BANK IN JORDAN, HAS PLEASURE IN ANNOUNCING THE INTRODUCTION OF AUTOMATIC TELLER MACHINE SERVICES THROUGH THE

DAY AND NIGHT CASH CARD

CUSTOMERS OF GRINDLAYS BANK CAN OBTAIN THEIR CASH

REQUIREMENTS THROUGH DAY AND NIGHT ATM'S AT NO LESS THAN

• 6 LOCATIONS IN AMMAN, AND

• 3 LOCATIONS OUTSIDE AMMAN, AT AQABA, QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT, AND WADI SEER.

MORE ATM LOCATIONS ARE PLANNED FOR DAY AND NIGHT. THE MOST EXTENSIVE

ATM NETWORK IN JORDAN.



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MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising office:

Jordan Press Foundation

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan

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The price of inhumanity

ALL over the English-speaking world last week, in supermarkets and car parks and suburban railway stations, good-natured commuters and last-minute shoppers were making their way amidst the Christmas tinsel to the strains of "On, Little Town of Bethlehem" — oblivious, for the most part, of the real situation in Bethlehem and in the rest of the occupied West Bank and Gaza: of the Israeli troops staking out their positions on the rooftops around the Church of the Nativity, and of the renewed wave of violence, which has left at least four young Palestinians dead and scores wounded in what we still call, despite everything, the Holy Land.

The Israelis, who find it necessary to enforce their domination by using five ammunition against unarmed university students and teenage schoolgirls, blame the violence on "troublemakers." The Palestinians, goaded beyond endurance by a regime which denies them any legitimate means of self expression, blame the Israeli army for deliberately provoking the confrontation. Both sides know, as does anyone with the slightest knowledge of the situation in Palestine, that the real cause of the violence and of the bitter hatred which underlies it, is the occupation itself. This Christmas of 1986 is the 20th which the inhabitants of that unhappy "Little Town of Bethlehem" have spent under military occupation, and the Palestinians, Christians and Muslims alike, can see no end to the misery and degradation of which they are the victims. As the Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz* observed in a leading article: "Israeli rule today is no more acceptable to the Arabs of the administered territories (sic) than it was in 1967... The root of the problem — and here we must not delude ourselves — is the fact of the occupation."

There can be no doubt whatever that *Ha'aretz* was right or that the imposition on the helpless Palestinians of a system of military domination is both morally wrong and politically dangerous — to the occupiers as well as the occupied. And yet nothing is done to put an end to a situation whose inevitable result, in Palestine as in South Africa or anywhere else in the world where one people seek to deny another its legitimate rights, is the perpetuation of a cycle of violence and counter-violence which brings benefit to no one. It has become fashionable to say that nothing can be done to produce a solution to the Palestine problem, as though there were some sort of inevitability about Israel's successful expansion at the expense of its neighbours and that, because there is no apparent way of checking it, the world should stand aside and wait for the political equivalent of market forces to produce their own result. Such a view is as futile in the light of historical experience as it is disreputable in moral terms. Those who now connive at Israel's domination over the Palestinians will eventually be discredited; but the problem remains of how to shorten the interval before that result is achieved and how, in the meantime, to lessen the suffering which the Israeli occupation imposes on its victims.

Ultimately, as everyone has long agreed, the solution lies in the hands of the government of the United States, which has the power, if it chooses, to insist that the Israelis mend their ways. But the Reagan administration, even before its present decline into a morass of indecision and incompetence (to put it no lower), had so identified itself with the policies of the government of Israel as to become virtually a party to the Arab-Israeli conflict over Palestine. American partisanship and the present disarray in Washington makes it all the more urgent for the other nations to do whatever they can to mitigate the sufferings of the Palestinians. Europe, and Britain in particular, have a special responsibility here, and the European Community, as by far the largest market for Israel's agricultural exports, is not without influence. If the Israelis in their administration of the occupied territories refuse to observe the provisions of the Geneva Conventions (of which both Israel itself and all the members of the Community are signatories), the proper response for Europe is to refuse to have any economic dealings with Israel; but the argument for sanctions against Israel is as valid as it is against South Africa. The Israelis, like the Boers, need to be told that there is a price to be paid for inhumanity — Middle East International, London.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Hopes for fruitful summit

PRESIDENT Hosni Mubarak's visit to Aqaba and his talks with King Hussein constitute another stage in coordination between Jordan and Egypt in political and economic fields. The visit follows King Hussein's tour of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and his talks with leaders of both countries on issues of concern to Arab countries in general and in preparation of the coming Islamic summit meeting in Kuwait. The visits and the talks by these leaders come at a crucial time for the Arab Nation which now faces external aggression and continuous threats. The preparation for the Kuwait summit is important in view of the seriousness of the situation the Islamic Nation is facing in the light of Israel's continued repressive measures in Arab territories and its occupation of Arab lands and holy places, and also in view of the ongoing Iran-Iraq war and the situation in Lebanon. Such visits have always been external powers to interfere in Arab affairs and caused a great deal of sufferings for the Arab and Muslim nations. Unless these issues are tackled by the Arab and Muslim leaders seriously and effectively at their forthcoming summit there can be no hope for the future generations. We hope that the Aqaba talks between King Hussein and President Mubarak will yield fruitful results and help pave the way for a successful summit in Kuwait.

Al Dustour: Contribution to Arab causes

KING Hussein and President Mubarak have not only laid firm and solid basis for fruitful cooperation between Jordan and Egypt but they continue their meetings and their endeavours for bolstering such cooperation and promoting bilateral relations. They also are bent on finding measures for helping the Arab and Islamic nations to counter external threats and dangers. The two leaders have led their countries to initiate economic and social ties and to promote them in the interest of their peoples. The meeting in Aqaba between the two leaders assumes an added importance since it comes amid critical circumstances facing the Arab Nation and on the eve of preparations for convening an Islamic summit meeting in Kuwait. This summit requires ample preparation by Arab leaders at all levels so that the leaders of the Islamic World can handle numerous issues that currently plague their nations. Perhaps the Iran-Iraq war will be among the most important issues to be taken up at the summit, and it is only natural for the King and President Mubarak to tackle this subject in detail.

Sawt Al Shaab: Solidarity and cohesion

IN the past year 1986, the Arab World witnessed a flurry of Jordanian political activity designed to bolster inter-Arab relations and rally Arab ranks and lead the Arabs towards more solidarity and cohesion. King Hussein has been spearheading efforts designed to unify Arab stands and bring justice and peace to the Arab Nation. Amman has welcomed Arab and Islamic leaders who came for consultation on matters of common concern, and President Mubarak's visit that ended today fits within this framework and in the course of continued cooperation and coordination between the Jordanian and Egyptian leadership. Jordan, under King Hussein's leadership, has been able to build so many bridges with Arab countries and has initiated links of cooperation in trade and economic fields and, above all, has succeeded in coordinating policies of interest and concern to the Arab Nation. Egypt which has offered so much sacrifice for the Arab Nation should be recognised back into the Arab fold so that its people can help in supporting the Arab Nation in the face of external danger and common enemies.

What signal does Elie Wiesel send us?

By Rami G. Khouri

IN THE context of the Arab-Israeli, particularly the Palestinian-Israeli, conflict, I tend to be a hopelessly naive optimist — in the long run. I say in the long run because my optimism is not based on the expectation that peace will break out tomorrow or that we shall see a self-determinant Palestinian people in the very near future. It is based, rather, on the affirmation of the fact that even in a conflict as bitter and bloody as ours, the essential humanity of the protagonists will prevail in the end — even if the end may be decades away.

I continue to insist, with increasing certitude and decreasing proof, that the Palestinian people will achieve their national rights and sovereignty one day, but only after a majority of Israelis recognises that it could be possible to share Palestine in the form of an Israeli state and a Palestinian state living side-by-side — a recognition that the Palestinian and other Arab leaderships grasped and articulated, if sometimes cryptically, between 1973 and 1983.

I have been prompted to ponder these rather heavy thoughts by the statements two weeks ago of 1986 Nobel Prize winner Elie Wiesel, the Romanian-born American Jewish author whose family died in the Nazi concentration camps when he was a boy. Well known in the United States as an articulate and determined fighter against anti-semitism and other forms of hatred, Mr. Wiesel surprised me earlier this month when he took the opportunity of his acceptance speech during the Nobel Prize ceremony in Oslo to mention the Palestinians.

Mr. Wiesel said that he was "sensitive to the plight of the Palestinians," though he deplored their methods of "violence and terrorism," and added that "something must be done about their suffering, and soon."

He also made a heartfelt appeal for Israel to be allowed to live in peace, to develop constructive relationships with the neighbouring Arab states. "Let Israel be given a chance," he said, "let hatred and danger be removed from her horizons, and there will be peace in and around the Holy Land."

These are intriguing thoughts, all the more so coming from a man with the personal credentials and credible capacity for moral exhortation of Elie Wiesel. He presents us — Palestinians, Jordanians, Semites, Arabs, Holy Land denizens, human beings — with a dilemma, a major dilemma in my view.

How serious is he? How sincere is he? Do we simply shrug off his call to do something about the suffering of the Palestinians as insincere, facile and politically slick? Is this nothing more than a case of moral expediency taken to a grotesque extreme?

Or is Elie Wiesel genuine? Has he, and the Judaic family he embodies, suffered so much that he has transcended the lonely, linear focus of his concern and his compassion, and recognised that the

freedom of his people is incomplete if other people are not free? Has he truly risen to the moral challenge and recognised that it is the universality of freedom that is as precious as its selective application to groups of people here and there, even groups who would have it that they were singled out by no lesser a personality than the Lord himself as somehow special?

He may be a solitary, isolated, freak voice; or he may represent the vanguard of a broader movement in the Jewish community. Who knows. And what does it matter?

It matters, I would suggest, insofar as Mr. Wiesel's remarks in Oslo earlier this month may reflect a small crack in the virtually monolithic Jewish/Israeli/Zionist posture towards the Palestinians, their unfulfilled national rights, and, as Mr. Wiesel calls it, their "suffering."

We know about the suffering of the Jews earlier this century, and during the last century in East and West Europe, and during the Middle Ages, and during ancient history, and in fact since the Jewish religion was born. Thanks to people such as Mr. Wiesel, and to historical forces such as Nazism, it is impossible to be ignorant of what happened to the Jews in years past.

Our response to the holocaust — and I think it is reasonable and truthful — is that the Palestinian people should not have had to pay the political price of national disenfranchisement in order to allow the Jewish people to have a homeland. The historical fact is, however, that we did pay that price, and have been largely ignored by the rest of the world every time we raised the matter in either moral or political terms.

We know of the suffering of the Jews. But how many Jews know of the suffering of the Palestinians and the other Arabs who have been effected by the Zionist conquest of Palestine?

So in the midst of all this comes perhaps the world's best known crusader for the heritage, historical experience and contemporary rights of the Jewish people — and what does he mention? The Palestinians. The suffering of the Palestinians.

I am not convinced that Mr. Wiesel fully appreciates the quality of our suffering. It would be inappropriate, in quantitative, moral or humanitarian terms, to suggest that the historical experience of the Jews and the Palestinians during this century could be equated on similar planes. They cannot. The physical magnitude and moral opprobrium of Nazi crimes against Jewish and other peoples remain on a scale of their own.

The key is not to equate what happened to the Jews in the 1940s with what happened to the Palestinians since the 1890s. The key is to see the Palestinians today in the same manner as the Zionist Jews saw themselves in the 1980's. The Holocaust had not happened there, but some Jews felt a strong need for a homeland where they could be

safe, where they could be themselves.

Where, then, does the "suffering" of the Palestinians fit into the psyche and political concerns of Elie Wiesel and those who share his special world? Does Mr. Wiesel fully appreciate the depth of Palestinian suffering? Of homelessness? Statelessness? Of often being deprived of basic human and political rights, and physical security?

Does Mr. Wiesel fully appreciate that what the Palestinians feel today is almost precisely what the Jews felt in the 1890s? If he does, he should go on to the logical conclusion of his call for something to be done about the suffering of the Palestinian by creating circumstances that would allow the Palestinians to enjoy the process of national self-determination that they should rightly have exercised in the post-World War I days of the decolonisation era, when nationhood and sovereignty came to many other parts of the Arab World.

It would be morally and politically wrong to shrug off Mr. Wiesel's remarks without exploring them within a framework of political realism and moral fortitude. More importantly perhaps, we should examine the Wiesel phenomenon within the context of the macabre historical reciprocity that binds the Palestinian and Jewish people together in their own shared and violent historical dynamic.

It has been a central pillar of 20th century Palestinian/Arab polemicism that our struggle is not against Judaism, but against Zionism. If Mr. Wiesel represents a Jewish tendency towards first appreciating, and then accepting the implementation of the national rights of the Palestinians, he deserves from us at least a fair hearing, and a sign of interest. If he is sending a signal, that signal should have a chance to become stronger and clearer. It would be easy, convenient and temperamentally chic simply to ignore Mr. Wiesel and write him off as a fake in his comments about the Palestinians. This may be so, but if it is, it should be ascertained at the end of a process of examination, not at its start.

It is historically vital, and morally incumbent upon all members of the Semitic family, that Palestinians and Jews seriously explore any statement of gesture that may represent movement — one dare not talk of breakthroughs — towards the goal that we aspire to: justice for all in the Holy Land, and coexistence and equal rights for both people who cover it. This is a distant dream, in today's world. But so was a Jewish state in the 1890s.

We have often said that Jews and Israelis must recognise the plight and right of the Palestinians. If Mr. Wiesel is attempting to do this, he would be well served by some appreciative or empathetically acknowledging noises from the Arab World. If he is not, we shall soon find out.

Weinberger sought to insulate Pentagon from Iran-contra fallout

By Norman Black
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In June 1985, an unusual Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) report crossed the desk of Defence Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger.

An analysis of the situation in Iran, the document would help lay the foundation for president Reagan's ultimate decision to sell arms in what the president describes as hopes of cultivating ties with moderate factions in that country.

It was forwarded to Weinberger for comment by the White House's National Security Council (NSC) staff.

If Weinberger aides are to be believed, the defence secretary and close Reagan friend smelled trouble from the moment he read the document. And if Weinberger is to be believed, the Pentagon subsequently avoided — as much as it could — any involvement in an operation that has burgeoned into the biggest political crisis of Reagan's presidency.

Weinberger, like so many of Reagan's top aides, has flatly denied any knowledge of how the Iranian arms deal was arranged; how the weapons were transferred to Iran; how much money was paid for the weapons; and the circumstances surrounding the diversion of profits to U.S.-backed Nicaraguan contra guerrillas.

He has pronounced himself "horrified" to learn of the diversion of money to the contras and stated that the president received some bad advice in the affair, beginning with former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane.

Weinberger's public statements, however, have not provided the Pentagon a clean bill of health in the affair. Congressional investigators, and now the army's inspector general as well, have opened inquiries to determine how the Pentagon fixed the price of weapons that it transferred to the CIA for ultimate sale to Iran.

The administration has said 2,800 Tow anti-tank missiles, along with spare parts for Hawk air-defence missiles, were drawn from Pentagon stocks for the CIA at the president's direction.

Pentagon officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, acknowledge the \$12.2 million charged the CIA for the missiles was too little even allowing for the fact that the weapons were old, basic models that are no longer produced.

Congressional sources say that fee is especially suspicious because it conveniently allowed the administration to avoid a \$14 million threshold for reporting foreign arms sales while creating great leeway for generating a "profit."

Attorney General Edwin Meese has said as much as \$30 million in profit from the weapons sales may have been diverted to the contras.

All of the sources agree, however, that more than a month after the operation was revealed, there is no evidence Weinberger knew what the Iranians were being charged or that money was

being diverted.

"It really does appear as if Weinberger and his people either deliberately muzzled their curiosity or else were deliberately kept in the dark after the missiles went to the CIA," says one congressional aide.

"And he was certainly on the right side of the affair with his advice to Reagan," the source added, noting Weinberger advised the president against selling arms to Iran.

That advice, according to Pentagon sources, began with the defence secretary's receipt of the CIA report last year.

Produced in May 1985, the report concluded there was evidence of a developing power struggle inside Iran and reason to believe the Soviet Union was ahead of the United States in preparing for the death or downfall of the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, according to informed sources.

The report prompted a draft national security directive from the White House proposing that U.S. allies be urged to cultivate trade with Iran, including military equipment.

Weinberger, the sources say, reacted strongly.

He wrote a note to Assistant Defence Secretary Richard Armitage outlining the recommendation he wanted to send to the White House: "This is almost too absurd for comment. It's based on assumptions there's about to be a major change in Iran and that we can deal with that rationally. It's like inviting (Libyan leader Muammar) Qadhafi over for a cozy lunch."

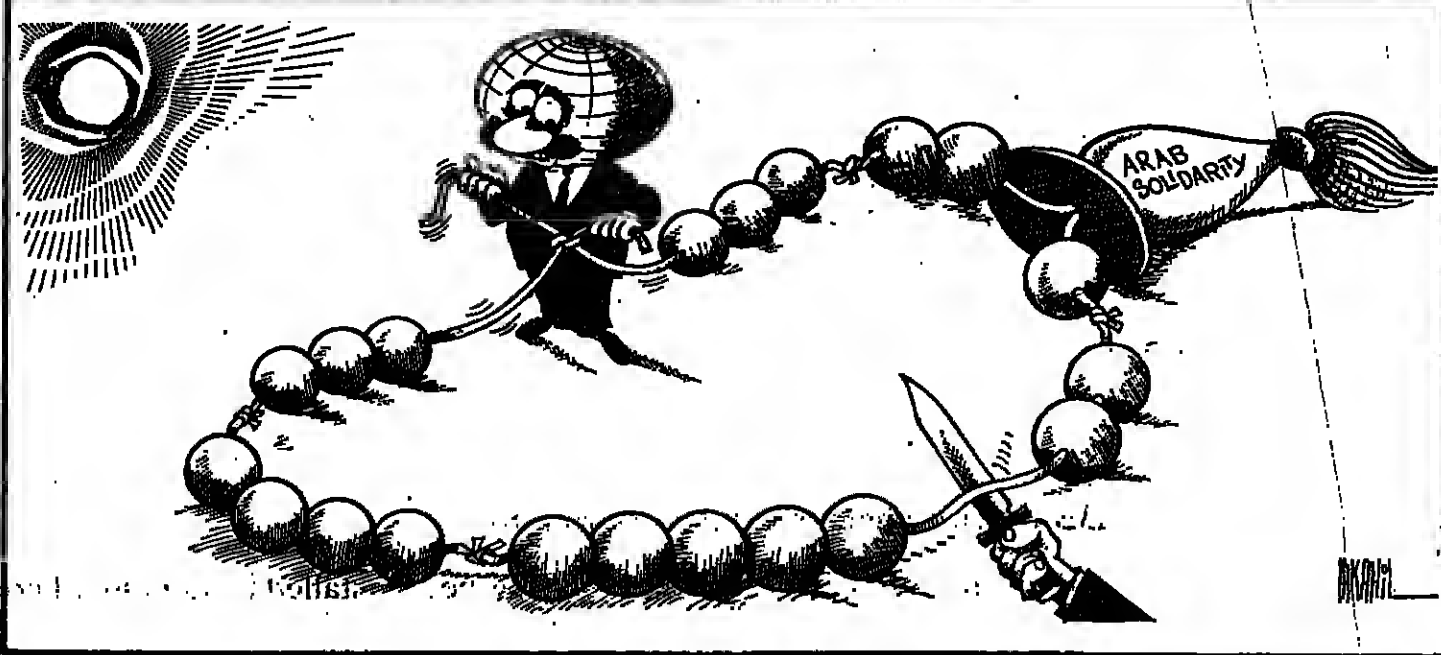
By January, however, Reagan had decided to authorise direct U.S. arms shipments to Iran. The defence secretary has said he was informed of the decision by the president and told to assist the CIA by providing weapons for the transaction.

According to Defence Department sources, there were at least five men within the Pentagon who knew arms were being transferred to the CIA: Weinberger, his former military aide, Lt. Gen. Colin Powell, his current aide, Vice Adm. Donald S. Jones, Armitage, the assistant defence secretary for international security affairs, and Deputy Defence Secretary William H. Taft.

The sources maintain all five also probably knew the arms were destined for Iran in line with a decision by the president, because the normal procedures for secret transfers of weapons to the CIA were not being followed.

If those procedures had been followed, the sources explained, officials such as Under Secretary of Defence Fred C. Ikle, Armitage's boss and the third man at the Pentagon, and Adm. William J. Crowe, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, "almost assuredly would have been informed and it doesn't appear that they were."

One source added he was convinced the army itself had no idea the weapons were destined for Iran and instead merely followed orders from the top to arrange the physical transfer of weapons to the CIA.



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About the writer

Nicola A. Ziadeh, the son of Abdo Ziadeh and Layya Shurrush (Rihami), both of Nazareth, was born at Damascus on Dec. 2, 1907, where his father worked for the Hija Railway. He returned with his mother, sister and two brothers to Nazareth early in 1914 following the death of his father. He subsequently lived at Nazareth, Tulkarem and Jenin till 1921 when he joined Men's Elementary Training (later the Arab) College in Jerusalem. In 1924 he received his diploma and went into the teaching profession at government schools at Acre (preceded by a year at Tarshiha) till 1935. In 1935 he earned a scholarship from the Department of Education, Palestine, to read history at University College, at the University of London, graduating in 1939 (B.A. Hons.). On returning to Palestine he joined the faculties of the Rashtaya and the American Universities. He taught history (and geography for some time) till 1947. Armed with a leave with pay from the Department of Education and a British Council Bursary, he went in that year to England to work for his doctorate at the School of Oriental and African Studies (London). He received the degree in 1950, in Islamic history. In 1949 he joined the Department of History at the American University of Beirut, where he served the cause of learning till 1973, when he became Professor Emeritus. During that period he spent two years as visiting professor at Harvard University (1956-7 and 1962-3); he was also a visiting professor at Kuwait University and at Aligarh Muslim University (India). Since



1973 he has spent two years at the University of Jordan, three years at the Lebanese University and has been supervising doctoral theses in Arab history for St. Joseph University (Beirut). Nicola Ziadeh has travelled widely in the Arab and Muslim World from Nigeria to Central Asia and from North Africa to the Arab Gulf. He has written numerous books on Arab and Islamic history and civilization, and has prepared about 1400 radio scripts, both in Arabic and English, for various services. In the Jordan Times of Dec. 2, 1986, on his 79th birthday, Dr. Ziadeh began a series of articles on places where he spent his childhood and youth years, remembering people's habits and way of life then, and painting with words towns and homes in turn of the century's Greater Syria—Syria, Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan. This is the second part of the article which appeared on Dec. 2 under the title Damascus on the eve of World War I.

Affula, using the extensioo Deraa-Haifa on which my father had worked only a few years ago. From Affula to Nazareth we used a carriage, except for myself. There was no room for me (there were other passengers, old people). So I was placed on a camel, on top of some luggage. This was the first and the last time I rode a camel — the experience was enough for me!

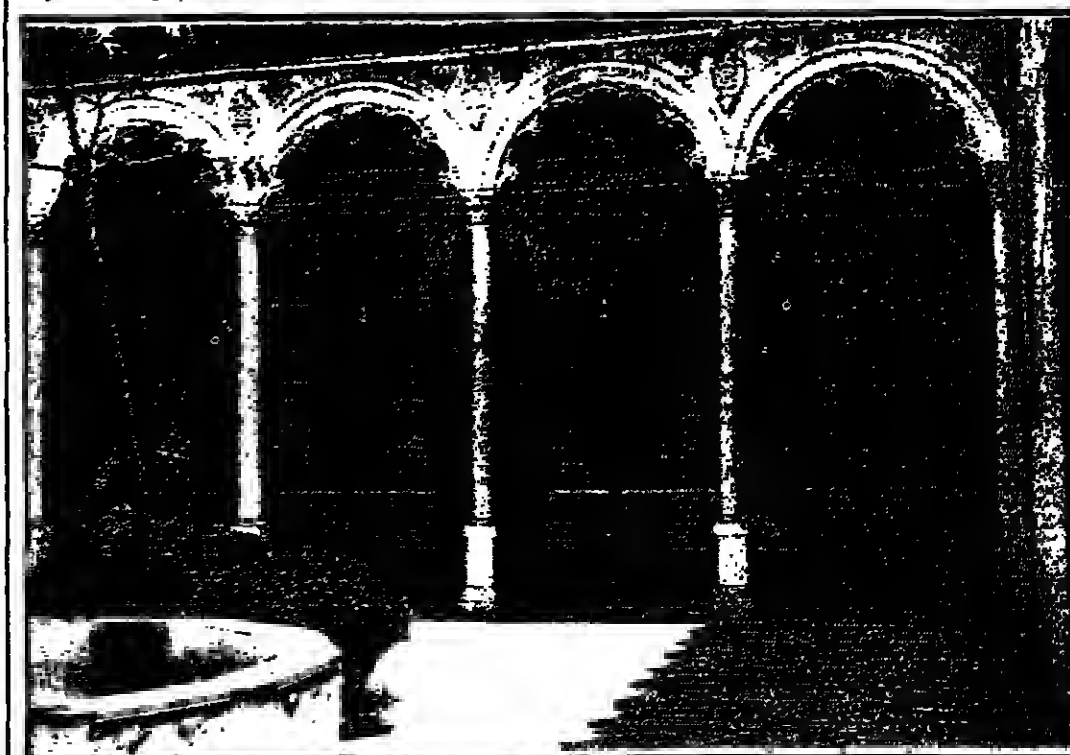
When we arrived at Nazareth, and after some respite — a comparative respite — the spoils of the family were divided. Uncle Samuel said he would look after me, and I actually went to live with him at Tulkarem; my aunt Sophie, who was a trained nurse and was working at the (confiscated) English hospital at Nazareth made my brother Alfred (this was the name of the physician who attended to his birth in Damascus) her ward; my grandparents took it upon them-



An old Damascus street
 myself to cater for my sister
 Mary; and mother, who was to live
 with her parents was to care for
 the baby, George.

But man proposes and God dis-
 poses. Within a year my uncle and
 my aunt were dead!

One of the 50 old mosques in Damascus (File photo)



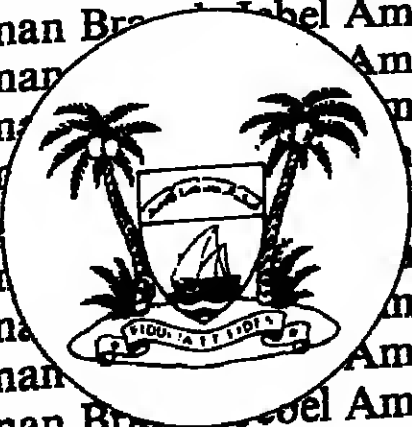
The Al Adhem Palace in Damascus (File photo)

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Challengers and defenders battle in America's Cup

FREMANTLE, Australia (AP) — Stars and Stripes and New Zealand edged closer to a match-up in the America's Cup challengers finals with resounding victories Monday.

Dennis Conner hammered his old foe, Tom Blackaller, as Stars and Stripes beat USA by 3 minutes, 2 seconds to take a 2-0 lead in their best-of-seven semifinal series.

New Zealand, skippered by Chris Dickson, continued its winning ways by beating French Kiss by 2:40 for its second win in as many days.

It was the second day in a row that Conner and the San Diego Yacht Club entry were forced to come from behind. But this time, Conner did not wait until midway in the final leg to go ahead, as he did Sunday when Stars and Stripes won by 10 seconds.

This time, Conner overcame a bad start in which he was over the starting line early to be 16 seconds ahead at the first windward buoy.

In the battle for the right to defend the cup, Kookaburra III pulled into a first-place tie with Australia IV with a little help from its stablemate, Kookaburra II.

Kookaburra II, skippered by Peter Gilmour, sailed away from Australia IV, winning by 59 seconds, while Kookaburra III downed Steak'n Kidney by 2:06.

Kookaburra III and Australia IV are tied with 59 points while Kookaburra II is next with 52 points. Steak'n Kidney has only 12 points and has no chance of entering the finals.

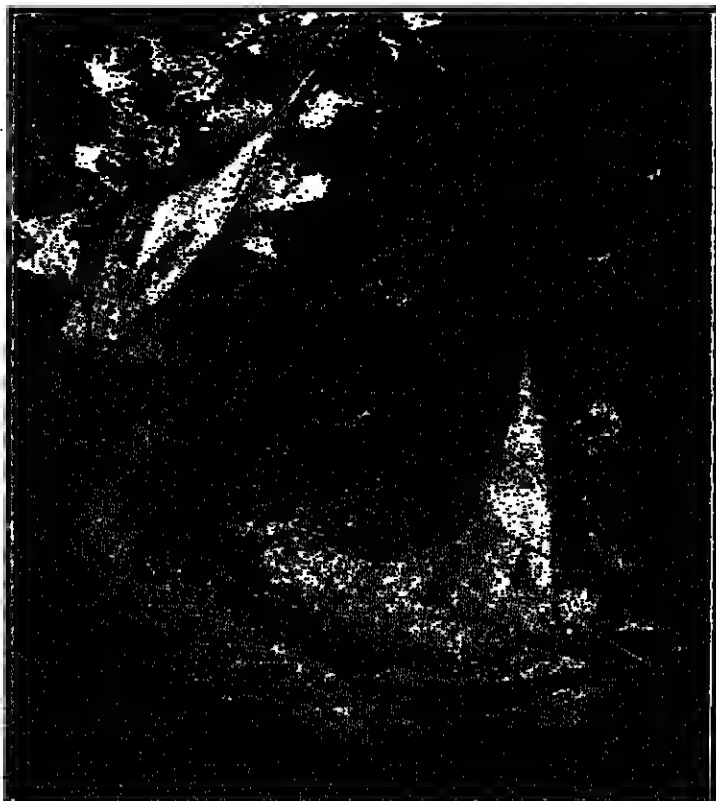
Under the rules, a yacht that has no chance to enter the semifinals is to be excused from further competition. If Steak'n Kidney races, it will face Australia IV Tuesday, while the two Kookaburras meet in the other semifinal.

Conner was all smiles as he crossed the finish line with USA on the horizon, while Blackaller was grim as USA crossed the

finish line a loser for the second straight day.

The San Francisco-based boat is at its best in moderate winds and flat seas — the case both Sunday and Monday, where winds of about 15 knots raised only small swells. Stars and Stripes prefers heavier weather, but has won twice now in lighter breezes.

It was apparent on the first beat that Stars and Stripes was quicker going to weather, but slightly slower off the wind.



Kookaburra III (right) and Kookaburra II (left), seen going head-to-head in an earlier race, both won their semifinal races on Monday.

Very Promising wins top Irish steeplechase

DUBLIN (R) — British challenger Very Promising landed one of Ireland's top steeplechasing prizes Monday when he won the £50,000 (\$73,000) Leopardstown Champion Chase by an impressive eight lengths.

The 5-4 favourite atoned for his run at Cheltenham last time out when he slipped up four fences from home and despite recovering could only finish fourth to Oregon Trail.

Monday Oregon Trail, the other British challenger, was well in contention until, ironically, the fourth last fence when a mistake

put him out of the race.

Very Promising was the first runner in Ireland for trainer David Nicholson. Jockey Richard Dunwoody, still limping after a fall last week in Britain, said of the winner: "He was very good. He never made a single mistake."

Ireland's crack chaser Bobsline (5-2) followed Very Promising home at a respectful distance after failing to quicken from the last fence while the veteran 13-year-old Royal Bond (25-1) plugged on gamely 10 lengths behind in third place at the end of the two and a half mile trip.

Cumani to train for Aga Khan

LONDON (AP) — Racehorse trainer Luca Cumani, who prepared a personal best 67 winners last season, will train for the Aga Khan in 1987, it was announced Monday.

The Aga Khan will be sending Cumani about 15 two-year-olds early in the new year with the rest of his string, expected to total about 80, going to his regular trainers Michael Stoute and Fulke Johnson Houghton, who have worked with him since 1978.

Italian-born Cumani spent two years as assistant to leading British trainer Henry Cecil before setting up his own stables. Since then, he has consistently produced winners, his biggest success coming with Commandeur Run in the 1984 St. Leger Classic.

The Aga Khan's famous colours — green with red epaulettes — have been carried to victory in two of the last six Epsom Derby Classics, first by Shergar in 1981 and this year by Shahrazad (1986). He also won the French Derby in 1984 with Darshaan and in 1985 with Moukhtar.

Barcelona closes year as Spanish leader

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Barcelona closed the year as overall leader in the Spanish Major League Soccer Championship with a 1-0 victory over Cadiz and increased its lead over second placed, Real Madrid, to two points after Sunday's 20th round.

Real Madrid, reigning league champions, drew at its Santiago Bernabeu Stadium 2-2 with Gijon.

Cadiz, playing on its grounds, before a crowd of 25,000, fought hard but without countering Barcelona's clear technical superiority.

After Welsh forward Mark Hughes scored in the 49th minute, the Catalan team slowed down.

It was used by Cadiz to press, seeking an equalising goal but with no success.

Gijon was a tough opponent for Real Madrid. They played openly

on the attack most of the match, before a crowd of 95,000.

Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez scored in the 12th for Real, and Eloy Olaya equalised for the visiting team, ending the half time 1-1.

Soon after the rest period, in the 48th, Jose Luis Ablanedo made it 2-1 for Gijon in a fast counter-attack. After this goal the Madrid team turned on the pressure and managed to equalise in the 82nd minute through Argentine Jorge Valdano.

Hugo Sanchez continued as top league scorer with 18 goals scored so far.

After this round, Barcelona has 30 points, two points more than Real Madrid.

Espanol of Barcelona kept third place in the standings with 26 points after winning 3-1 over visiting Las Palmas.

Result of Jordanian Premier League Soccer match played Sunday

Al Hussein 2 Amman 1

Leading Standings

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Al Duffatein	17	10	4	3	33	10	24
Al Faisali	17	9	6	2	27	10	24
Al Ahl	17	8	5	4	26	17	21
Al Ramtha	17	5	10	2	26	15	20
Al Hussein	17	7	5	5	22	19	19
Al Jazira	17	6	5	6	19	17	17
Amman	17	5	3	9	18	23	13
Al Qadesia	17	4	5	8	12	23	13
Al Quozazi	17	3	6	8	10	20	12
Al Nasr	17	1	5	11	5	44	7

Davis Cup hero is likely seed for Australian Open

MELBOURNE (R) — Pat Cash, architect of Australia's Davis Cup final victory over Sweden, is likely to be a surprise seed for next month's Australian Open at Kooyong.

Tournament director Colin Stubs said Monday Cash would probably sneak into the seeds at around number 14, based on his world computer ranking of 24.

But he said the decision would have nothing to do with Cash's Davis Cup heroics, which helped Australia triumph 3-2 over the defending champion Sweden to win the cup for the 26th time Sunday.

Cash upset the world rankings with singles wins over

fourth-ranked Stefan Edberg and 11th-ranked Mikael Pernfors, and combined with John Fitzgerald to take the doubles.

Davis Cup captain Neale Fraser, long a campaigner for Davis Cup form to be taken into account in tournament seedings, said Monday he pined Cash's first opponent at the open and again criticised the seeding system for the tournament starting on Jan. 12.

"Whoever he draws in the first round of the open will be an unlucky player," Fraser said. "The rankings are false," he added. "They should consider performance on different types of courts separately."

Tampa Bay gets new coach

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — The Tampa Bay Buccaneers fired coach Leeman Bennett Monday after the National Football League club's 2-14 record earned it the no. 1 pick in the NFL draft.

Owner Hugh Culverhouse said he made the decision only 15 minutes before the news conference Monday. He had called the news conference two weeks ago to discuss future plans for his struggling team.

Culverhouse said he will look for a new coach, but did not set a

specific timetable. He again denied reports that he has talked with Alabama coach Ray Perkins. Bennett, who replaced John McKay after the 1984 season, compiled a 4-28 record in two years at the helm of the Bucs.

"And while my heart tells me I'd like to see Leeman finish the job he started, I don't have a strong feeling of comfort going into next season," he said. "It is for that reason that I, reluctantly and with great misgivings, announce I will seek another head coach."

Australian Boon fights for test place

MELBOURNE (R) — Australian vice-captain David Boon, fighting to retain his test place, spent part of his 26th birthday Monday practising in the centre of the empty Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Boon joined his teammates at practice as the Australian team fought to overcome its disappointment at losing the fourth test to England Sunday with more than two days to spare.

Australia, 2-0 down in the five-test series, cannot now win back the Ashes and Boon's test place must be in jeopardy.

The stocky Tasmanian has played 15 innings against England, scoring 103 in one of them, 61 in another but only 104 in the remaining 13.

He knows he must score plenty of runs in the Four-Nation Challenge Cup one-day series starting in Perth to retain his place in the Australian side for the fifth test starting in Sydney on Jan. 10.

If Boon is dropped, he will become the fourth of Allan Border's vice-captains to be axed, following Andrew Hilditch, David Hookes and Ray Bright.

Another of the Australian side who will come under close scrutiny in the challenge series will be wicketkeeper Tim Zoehrer.

Zoehrer had an indifferent match and he could well be replaced for the fifth test by his deputy Greg Dyer or Tasmania's Richard Soule.

Moroccan trainer gets UAE offer

RABAT (R) — Morocco's National soccer trainer Mehdi Jose Faria of Brazil said in a newspaper interview published Monday that he had received a \$17,000 a month offer to sign up with the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Faria, who guided the Moroccans into the second phase of the World Cup in Mexico last June, told the Rabat daily L'Opinion he had been asked to replace the UAE's departing Brazilian trainer.

He told the paper he had been offered a bonus of about \$70,000 to sign up with the UAE and a monthly salary of \$17,000.

He said a representative of the UAE squad was currently in Morocco in an attempt to finalise a deal.

"But I would like to stay in Morocco until the end of my career," Faria added. "I would be very happy to do so. It's a lovely country."

Faria, who converted to Islam and took the name Mehdi when Morocco qualified for the finals of the World Cup, is due to renegotiate his contract with the Royal Moroccan Football Federation this week.

Coghlan could be back in training

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — Eamonn Coghlan, the American-based world indoor mile record-holder who was savagely bitten by a dog while out training, could be running again by the time he returns to the United States, the Irishman said Monday.

The 33-year-old Coghlan suffered a broken hand and tissue damage to his calf and thighs Saturday after two men set their dog on him.

Despite the crushing defeat, Australian cricket manager Bobby Simpson insisted Monday that the side was not downhearted.

"We have a Challenge Cup series in Perth, the one-day internationals and also the fifth test to handle in Sydney."

"Whatever has gone on before, our object is to win both in Perth and Sydney," Simpson said.

"It's just hard work and more

hard work, knuckling down to the task."

Simpson would not comment on the selectors' choice of only four specialist batsmen, a decision which was criticised by both Border and his England counterpart Mike Gatting.

"It's not my job to comment on the selectors and make-up of the teams," he said. "I have another job to do and that's what we're on about."



Australian vice-captain David Boon, in happier times, is congratulated by teammate Jones after reaching century in third Ashes test in Adelaide.

Redskins make date with Bears with win over LA

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jess Atkinson kicked four field goals and George Rogers ran for 115 yards as the Washington Redskins took advantage of six Los Angeles turnovers and a critical double penalty to beat the Rams 19-7 in the National Football Conference wild-card game Sunday.

The victory sent the Redskins to Chicago, where they will play the defending National Football League champion Bears next Saturday in one NFC semifinal. The San Francisco 49ers will visit the New York Giants Sunday in the other.

Atkinson, signed just two weeks ago to replace the ineffective Max Zendejas, tied a Redskins playoff record with field goals of 25, 20, 38 and 19 yards — one in each quarter — as Washington used Rogers in a patient ball-control offence against the Los Angeles defence.

Rogers, meanwhile, was eating up yardage and time in a careful, ball-control offence that chugged to a 13-0 halftime lead and made no mistake worse than a holding penalty.

Quarterback Jay Schroeder was 13 of 23 for 90 yards and his longest completion against Los Angeles' deep zone defence was just 14 yards — to Kelvin Bryant in the first period for the Redskins' only touchdown.

That was in direct contrast to Los Angeles.

The Rams lost three first-half fumbles in Washington territory — two by Eric Dickerson — to about scoring threats. And a double penalty on all-pro cornerback Leroy Irvin — a pass interference penalty and 15 more yards for complaining about it — accounted for 28 of the 60 yards on the Redskins' lone T.D. drive.

Padilla loses at 3,000 metres

SASKATOON, Saskatchewan (R) — American Doug Padilla, fourth-seeded Al Parker of the United States upset second-seeded Tomas Carbonell of Spain 6-4, 6-4 in a semifinal match Sunday in the boys 18 division of the 40th annual Orange Bowl International Junior Tennis Championship.

Parker will play top-seeded Javier Sanchez of Spain in the finals Monday. Sanchez defeated sixth-seeded Rudiger Haas of West Germany 6-2, 7-5 in semifinal play Sunday.

In the girls 18 division, top-seeded Patricia Parabini of Argentina advanced to Monday's finals after defeating no. 12 seed Gabriela Mosca of Argentina 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 Sunday.

American upsets Spaniard in junior tennis

MIAMI BEACH, Florida (AP) — Fourth-seeded Al Parker of the United States upset second-seeded Tomas Carbonell of Spain 6-4, 6-4 in a semifinal match Sunday in the boys 18 division of the 40th annual Orange Bowl International Junior Tennis Championship.

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مكتبة صيدا

Islamic bank to extend \$86m loans Jordan to get \$15 million to purchase crude oil

JEDDAH (R) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has approved financing totalling \$86 million for seven trade operations and two new development projects in member countries, its executive board said.

In a statement Sunday night, the board said seven special assistance projects for Muslim communities in non-member countries had also been approved to a total of \$4.7 million.

This brought total financing approved since the start of the Islamic new year last Sept. 15 to \$184 million, the board said.

Foreign trade operations to be financed at a total cost of \$71.3 million were listed in the statement as:

— Importation by Jordan of crude oil from a member country — \$15 million.

— Importation by Malaysia of intermediate industrial goods —

\$1.3 million.

— Importation by Morocco of crude oil from a member country — \$15 million.

— Importation of crude oil by Pakistan from Saudi Arabia — \$15 million.

— Importation by Turkey of crude oil from a member country — \$15 million.

— Importation by South Yemen of crude oil from a

member country — \$10 million.

New projects for member countries were for railway track rehabilitation and purchase of carriages by Pakistan and construction of a truck feeder road in Gambia.

Special projects in non-member countries included Islamic cultural centre, school and college buildings in France, Singapore, South Korea and India.

Lebanese lira

hits 92 to dollar

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese pound continued its plunge against the dollar Monday, hitting another record low as buyers scrambled to acquire the limited amounts of the U.S. currency available. It closed at 92 to the dollar, compared to 88 at the end of trading on Saturday when it lost 8.6 per cent of its value. Two years ago the pound stood at five to the dollar and ended 1985 at 18. The latest fall came despite signs of a possible thaw in relations between President Amin Gemayel and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, frozen for almost a year. Their differences have paralysed Prime Minister Rashid Karami's "national unity" government, blocking any attempt to tackle Lebanon's grave economic problems.

Kuwait to buy six fuel tankers

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait will buy six oil-products carriers from a South Korean shipbuilding company for \$132 million, the chairman of the state-owned Kuwait Oil Tankers Co. (KOTC) announced Monday.

The chairman, Sheikh Abdul Fatah Al Badr, told the Associated Press that the purchase contract with the company, Samsung, would be signed in Kuwait in the first week of 1987.

He said the six vessels, which will join the KOTC's fleet in the second half of 1988, would help cope with Kuwait's need to export more processed oil derivatives following the modernisation of the country's four refineries.

The modernisation process, which reportedly cost more than \$2 billion, is expected to raise the amount of crude oil processed and refined locally to more than

500,000 barrels a day.

The figure compares with a present capacity of about 300,000 barrels, according to oil industry sources.

This means that more than half of Kuwait's crude oil production will be refined locally, lessening Kuwait's dependence on foreign demand for oil and increasing the country's immunity against outside fluctuations, added the sources, who spoke on condition they not be named.

Kuwait's OPEC-decreed quota of 999,000 barrels a day is to be slashed to 945,000 barrels as of Jan. 1 in accordance with a ruling by the ministerial council of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Geneva earlier this month.

The new vessels will be designed in such a fashion that suits the needs of the Kuwait Oil Corporation in marketing Kuwaiti oil products at international ports

at competitive prices, enabling us to undercut others," Sheikh Al Badr said.

"We also want to fulfil our commitments toward consumers in Europe where we have a large number of filling stations and other downstream installations," he said.

The KOTC chairman said Kuwait would be the first country to acquire tankers with such characteristics, but he did not give the specifics.

The Kuwait Petroleum Corp., the state-owned conglomerate which groups oil companies and the KOTC, owns two refineries in Europe with a total capacity of 200,000 barrels a day and more than 3,000 gas filling stations in the Benelux and Scandinavian countries.

The six new vessels comprise two of 120,000-ton capacity and four of 35,000 tons.

Gulf Arab countries serve notice of change in oil price from Feb. 1

BAHRAIN (R) — Three of the Gulf's largest oil producers have begun telling their customers that they intend to implement higher, fixed prices agreed on by OPEC from Feb. 1, industry sources said Monday.

They said that at least Saudi Arabia, Iran and Kuwait — which together account for nearly half the output of OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) — had sent notifications.

OPEC decided on Dec. 20 to return to fixed prices around a benchmark of \$18 per barrel, some \$3 to \$4 higher than the value on the floating, spot market for the past month.

The accord has boosted spot prices, though not yet to official levels. Non-OPEC Britain's key Brent crude was quoted Monday at \$17.50 a barrel for February loading, below the new \$18.92 official OPEC price for Nigeria's comparable Bonny light oil.

An official at the state-owned

Kuwait Petroleum Corp (KPC) said KPC had tendered its new price of \$16.67 a barrel and gave its buyers the choice of accepting the price or ending their contracts.

Saudi Arabia also told customers prices would be fixed from Feb. 1, oil sources said, but details were unavailable.

They said the National Iranian Oil Company, informing its buyers that the accord would be in effect from the beginning of February, invited Japanese companies to visit Tehran by mid-January to negotiate new terms for their crude contracts.

There has been less industry talk on implementation of lower production ceilings, due to take effect at the beginning of January.

Saudi Arabia has cut

contractual volumes for January by 20 per cent at least for its Japanese customers, and some sources said Western companies were receiving similar reductions.

Kuwaiti officials say their country intends to meet its new quota, but it is awaiting responses to the declaration of the higher price to see if any customers will cancel before it decides how to comply.

Two other key Gulf producers, Iraq and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), have shown little sign of cutting their output.

Iraq refused to go along with the accord, and while the UAE signed it, some of its customers report it will maintain sales in January at levels virtually unchanged from December.

New York Times urges stiff tax on imported fuel

Meanwhile, the New York Times said Monday in an editorial that the United States must impose a stiff tax on imported fuel

if the nation is to escape a repeat of the 1973 oil crisis.

"Unless Washington stops focusing on the prices at the gas (petrol) pump and starts looking at the prices and dependency just over the horizon, the United States will be in deep trouble all over again," the newspaper said.

Lower prices following the collapse of OPEC unity last year brought increased consumption in a nation that had earlier seemed to learn the lesson of conservation, the newspaper said.

But it said conservation is needed more than ever now that OPEC has finally agreed to a unified policy on a modest price increase, even if some experts believe it won't last.

"Unless Washington sounds the alarm and get moving on long-term conservation and production programmes, the (Arabs) will be back in charge of our economic destiny, may be within a decade," the newspaper concluded.

Dollar weakens against mark and yen

FRANKFURT (R) — The dollar tumbled Monday against the West German mark on European foreign exchange markets, influenced by forecasts of a sluggish U.S. economy in 1987.

It was traded as low as 1.9425 marks and was fixed in Frankfurt at midday at 1.9458, well below its 1.9645 close on December 23, the last trading day in the West German financial centre before the Christmas break.

Gold was fixed in London Monday morning at \$391.40 an ounce in quiet trading, barely changed from its last fixing on Christmas Eve, dealers said.

The dollar also weakened against the yen, trading just over 159 yen, down from its pre-Christmas levels on around 160 yen.

Trading in the U.S. currency was thin ahead of the New Year holiday, dealers said, with fluctuations making a deep impact

on the market. They added that an upward reaction could follow closely on the recent drop, since 1.95 marks was considered a strong psychological resistance point.

"The risk is sooner or later we could have an oversold market and could expect a technical counter-movement up to 2.03 marks," said Mr. Eckhart Hager, currency analyst at Chase Bank.

But the dollar's weakness reflected strong underlying fears about U.S. economic prospects for 1987 and market expectations that analysts' forecasts of a further dollar decline would be proved correct, dealers said.

The huge trade deficit carried by the United States and expected to exceed \$140 billion this year was a major factor undermining confidence in the dollar and forcing investors to look for alternatives, they added.

Although the dollar has fallen

by about a third against other major currencies like West Germany's mark and Japan's yen since mid-1985, the deficit persists while these countries continue to run trade surpluses, adding weight to predictions that the dollar must fall further.

Dealers in Tokyo said the dollar's most recent tumble there was triggered by comments by Bank of Japan Governor Satoshi Sumita that a lower dollar rate of 159 to 160 yen was acceptable.

Mr. Karl Otto Poehl, president of West Germany's central bank, was quoted Sunday as saying further decline in the dollar's value could harm the West German economy and increase pressure on European currencies.

"A further depreciation of the dollar could seriously restrict West German economic growth and aggravate tensions within the European Monetary System," Mr.

Poehl told the West German newspaper Welt Am Sonntag.

Among those who predicted a weaker dollar in 1987 was Mr. Henry Kaufman, chief economist at the Wall Street brokerage house Salomon Brothers, who said earlier this month that the dollar was likely to fall to 1.75 marks and 150 yen.

The 24-nation Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) also said a drop in the dollar's value could be needed to correct the U.S. trade deficit.

The thrust of the semi annual OECD report, published in mid-December, was a warning that the industrialised nations must address the glaring imbalance in their trade, or else protectionism and turmoil in the current markets might imperil even their present, modest economic expansion.

Istanbul stock exchange regains prominence

ISTANBUL (R) — The stock exchange in Istanbul, once the bustling commercial centre of the sprawling Ottoman empire, has outstripped expectations in the first year of its revival after more than 60 years in limbo.

Rows of desks lining the small trading floor on the second storey on the austere state bank still give the exchange the air of a school classroom.

But brokers are enthusiastic, with average monthly trading volume surging above 400,000 shares this month from 178,000 in January just after its launch and some price boosts of over 100 per cent.

"The exchange trading volume reached a level beyond our expectations," one broker commented.

Istanbul was a thriving commercial centre early this century, and the exchange reflected its position at the heart

of the Ottoman empire.

The empire vanished with World War I, however, and with the establishment of the Turkish republic in 1923 the exchange became a forgotten institution.

It never closed. Brokers just didn't use it, although the city remained modern Turkey's financial centre.

Then on Dec. 26, 1985, Prime Minister Turgut Ozal reorganised the exchange as part of his drive to implement market-oriented economic policies in Turkey and liberalise the country's capital markets.

In the year since its relaunch, the number of registered banks, brokerage houses and individual brokers has climbed to 47 from 36. Exchange executives now are hunting for larger premises.

Brokers believe it is only logical that Istanbul should continue to build on its role as the country's financial centre.

Shortage of shares

But the first year of stock trading has not been without its problems. Brokers complain that there is a serious shortage of stocks to be traded, with large family-owned businesses still reluctant to go public with share flotations.

"Our main bottleneck is the shortage of shares to be traded," exchange chairman, Mr. Muharrem Karali, told Reuters.

Forty major stocks are listed, but earlier this month Mr. Ozal launched a scheme to encourage family businesses to go public. The idea is simple: The higher the level of public ownership, the lower the company's corporate tax rate.

"This will greatly help to increase shares to be traded at the exchange in the long run," broker Murat Kuran said.

The planned privatisation of some state-owned companies and

the selling to the public of some company shares the state enterprises hold could increase the supply of stock on the market.

Up to late December, transactions of the exchange totalled just over one billion lira (\$130 million) in value. But government bonds and short-term paper made up over 90 per cent.

In a further bid to boost the exchange and reduce unregistered "over the counter" trading, the authorities agreed to waive a 0.1 per cent commission on bond transactions.

A daily index is planned from Jan. 1, but the exchange said the "average productivity" of the 40 major shares listed was 84 per cent in the first year of operation.

Brokers said this compared favourably with retail price inflation of 30.6 per cent over the same period.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.4600/10	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3790/3800	Canadian dollars
	1.9490/9500	West German marks
	2.2045/60	Dutch guilders
	1.6265/80	Swiss francs
	40.58/63	Belgian francs
	6.4500/50	French francs
	1355/1356	Italian lire
	159.30/40	Japanese yen
	6.8175/8225	Swedish crowns
	7.4100/50	Norwegian crowns
	7.3810/60	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	391.00/391.50	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed below best levels after a quiet session and at 1530 GMT, the FTSE 100 share index was up 6.9 at 1,672.0 having touched 1,672.9 initially.

Dealers said the firmer trend reflected end-year book squaring operations, while weekend press reports prompted demand in selected issues but seasonal influences kept trading at a low level. Government bonds were firmer on balance with gains ranging to about 1/4 point and gold shares were occasionally higher in minimal activity, dealers added.

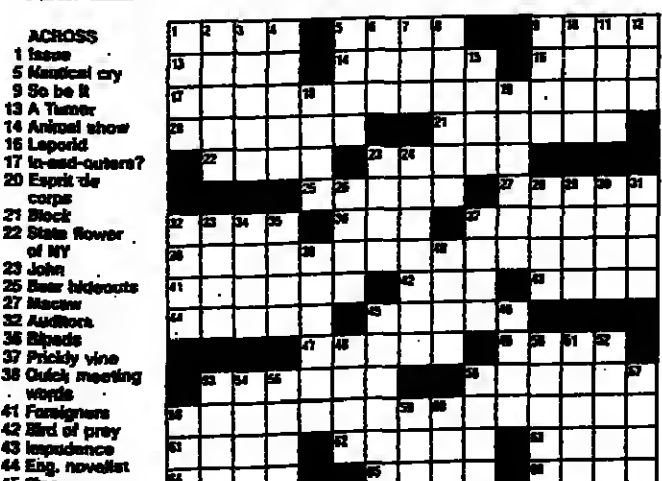
ICI ended 5p off at 1,079 but Glaxo rose 7p to 1,052, while British Aerospace moved to 505 from 499, after news of orders worth \$130 million.

Recal was a net 2p up at 183, after conditional agreement to acquire the minority interest in Vodafone for \$160.8 million. Pilkington gained 8p to 661 following speculation that the company will make a profits forecast in defence of bid from BTR, dealers added.

Blue Circle advanced 7p to 670. It rose 8p last Wednesday in response to press comment on Adelaide steamship's increased stake in the company.

HOROSCOPE not received

THE Daily Crossword by John Feneck



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1 Across	19 Generator
2 Down	20 Coherent
3 Across	21 Blinks at times
4 Down	22 Chances
5 Across	23 Disasters
6 Down	24 Troubadour
7 Across	25 Love song
8 Down	26 Beams
9 Across	27 Choppers
10 Down	28 Soccer great
11 Across	29 Litter
12 Down	30 Sound unit
13 Across	31 Troubadour
14 Down	32 Bravely
15 Across	33 On — love
16 Down	34 Breathing
17 Across	35 Accident
18 Down	36 Jerry Lee
19 Across	37 Goodnight
20 Down	38 get
21 Across	39 Masonic
22 Down	40 doorkeeper
23 Across	41 in (begin with vigor)
24 Down	42 Full of
25 Across	43 Corolla
26 Down	44 sounds
27 Across	45 Canadian
28 Down	46 Indian
29 Across	47 Yelled
30 Down	48 Yelled
31 Across	49 Monk
32 Down	50 Foghorn

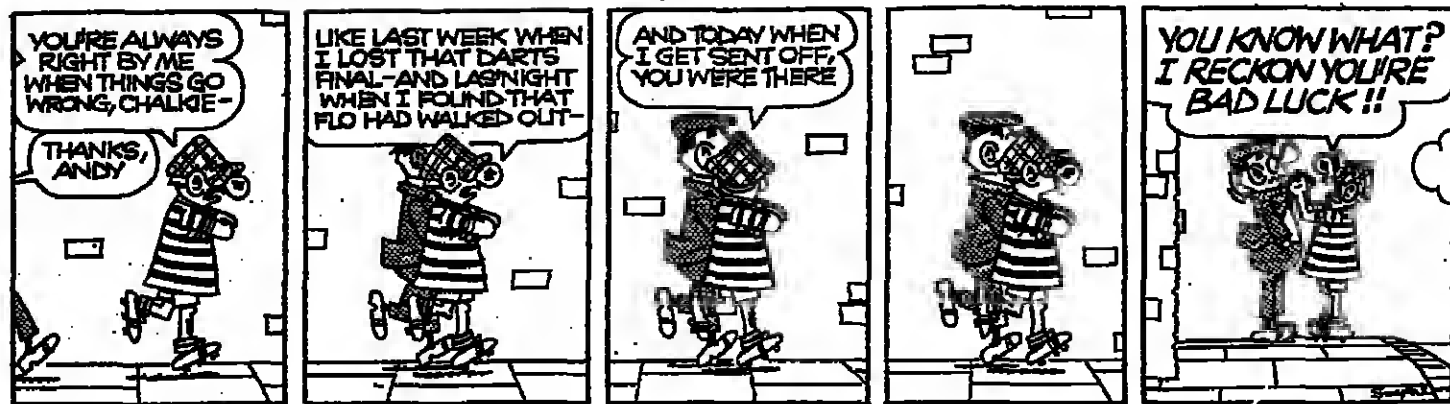
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp

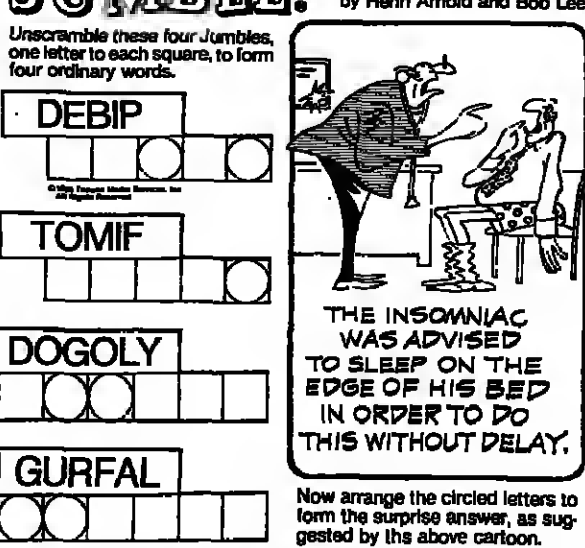


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JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Print answer here: "O O O O O O O O O O"

Yesterday's Jumble: ELEGY PRIZE VASSAL FOURTH

Answer: When you invite someone to an outrageously expensive restaurant... IT SERVES YOU RIGHT

Peking students march in defiance of new regulations

PEKING (AP) — Students seeking more freedoms and democratic reforms marched Monday through snow-packed streets of Peking, where officials had barred demonstrations without police approval.

It was not immediately known if police gave permission for the protest march that began early Monday and lasted for about five hours. The police followed the students, but did not try to interfere.

Sources said students from Peking Teachers University marched to Peking University and then on to Qinghua University, which are all in the same area in the north west part of the capital city.

Posters put up at Peking University said there was confrontation at the Qinghua University where guards tried to prevent the student protesters from entering the campus.

One poster said several students were detained by police after they entered the campus. There was no official word on whether any of the students were detained.

The poster said several thousand students participated in the demonstration that began when several students, angered that a pro-democracy poster on the campus had been torn down,

set off for the other schools. The Peking Evening News said Monday that 200 to 300 students had taken to the streets "at the instigation of some isolated individuals."

It said they disturbed the sleep of the students in the universities they visited and "were rejected by the students ... and had to leave disgracefully."

The newspaper said the march was illegal and that organisers would be held legally responsible, but did not elaborate.

The protest was the first to move into the streets of Peking since last Tuesday, when about 1,000 students held a march after 4,000 rallied at Qinghua University.

Students have demonstrated in at least nine Chinese cities during the past month.

One poster at Peking University called on students to gather for a pro-democracy rally on New Year's Day at Tiananmen, the vast square in central Peking.

Sources in Nanjing in eastern China said demonstrations that

had continued in that city from Monday through Saturday tapered off Sunday, but added students continued to erect pro-democracy posters at Nanjing University.

China's leading newspaper, the Communist Party's People's Daily, strongly criticised the protests.

The article published Monday said the demonstrators have "a lot of muddle-headed and erroneous viewpoints on the question of democracy of which the most outstanding one is the idea that one can discard the party leadership and the Socialist system when talking about democracy."

It said this viewpoint has "exerted a considerable influence on a few people and merits our close attention."

The Peking Daily reminded students in an editorial Monday that it is illegal to put up "big character" posters, which are repugnant to many Chinese because of their association with the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution and its ensuing political turmoil and repression.

The newspaper said people who put up the posters or interfere with their removal will be punished, but did not specify penalties.

National television Sunday night quoted veteran Communist leader Wang Zhen criticising people who spread nihilism, denigrated China and advocated all-round Westernisation.

A Western diplomat said the term language used in the official press over the past few days showed growing impatience toward the student unrest.

"Protests now are becoming increasingly dangerous. The price of dissent has risen in the last few days," he said.

A foreign student at the Teachers' University said the students chose to march in the early hours of the morning to catch the authorities unawares and reduce risk of identification.

Staff at the college were trying to identify the leaders of the demonstration, he added.

The students set out on the march banging drums and chanting slogans calling for democracy and freedom, he said.

A foreign reporter disputed the Peking Evening News account, saying he saw the students enter both Peking and Qinghua Universities, where the numbers swelled to up to 3,000.

He said that up to 30 police in cars accompanied them as they marched from Peking to Qinghua Universities but made no arrests.

Protest strike paralyses Punjab

CHANDIGARH, India (R) — Militant Sikh students blocked streets in three Punjab cities Monday at the start of a protest strike against death sentences imposed on the assassins of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Police in Chandigarh, the state capital, said most transport was halted, schools and colleges were closed down and most shops shut as the two-day strike took hold and paralysed the troubled Sikh-majority state.

Thousands of extra police and security forces guarded railway stations, bus terminals, banks, post offices and other state buildings, police said.

They said 538 members of the militant All-India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF), which called the strike, and of a hardline breakaway faction of the ruling Akali Dal Party, which is backing it, have been rounded up in the past two days and put under preventive arrest to avert trouble.

However, the protest was a major challenge to moderate Sikh Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala who is supported by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and it appeared to be widely effective from the start.

The AISSF has campaigned since 1984 for the release of hundreds of people detained during the army's June 1984 assault to oust armed militants from Sikhism's holiest shrine, the Golden Temple at Amritsar, in which at least 1,000 people were killed.

But the strike was the first major protest against the death sentences passed on the Sikh bodyguards who killed Indira Gandhi in reprisal for having ordered the Golden Temple attack.

The Delhi high court dismissed all appeals on Dec. 3 by former bodyguard Sant Singh, 22, who was convicted of murder, and on Balbir Singh, 45, and civil servant Kehar Singh, 50, who were convicted of conspiracy to murder.

The three may still appeal to the supreme court and President Zail Singh, a Sikh, and no date for their execution has been set.

Police said hundreds of militants in the Sikh holy city, Amritsar, the industrial city of Jullundur and the town of Kapurthala had barricaded streets with drums and were squatting on the roads to stop traffic.

Hundreds more students who tried to take to the streets in Amritsar to enforce the strike in the bazaar were pushed back into a college by para-military forces, police said.

Two outlying districts of Amritsar were under indefinite police curfew for fear of Sikh-Hindu clashes after recent killings by Sikh extremists campaigning for an independent Sikh homeland in Punjab called Khalistan (land of the pure).

More than 690 people have died in the extremist-related violence in Punjab this year, according to unofficial figures.

Almost all trains and buses stopped running at midnight to avoid trouble. A few long-distance buses and trains still running with armed guards were empty, police added. Schools were closed in major towns.

About 70 per cent of shops in Punjab are owned by Hindus, who oppose the strike but police said most shut down to avoid violence.

Colombo offers new bid to break deadlock

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka has proposed setting up a body to coordinate activities among autonomous provincial councils in a bid to break a deadlock in peace talks aimed at ending the Tamil separatist war, Finance and Planning Minister Ronnie De Mel said.

A ministry statement Monday quoted Mr. De Mel as telling local reporters in the United Arab Emirates that there would be "news of peace" in Sri Lanka early in the year.

Mr. De Mel arrived in Dubai last week as part of a tour of Middle East countries.

He said Tamil rebels have softened their stance after the Sri Lankan government last month offered a compromise proposal of three separate provincial councils in eastern province.

He said the government had stated that, although it could not merge eastern and northern provinces, it is prepared to have an intra-provincial ministerial or coordinating council so that the provinces can meet and discuss their problems.

"This new initiative has the Indian government's backing and we are awaiting their (Tamil's) response. India has to convince the militants about the initiative," Mr. De Mel said.

Official sources said the scheme was conveyed to two Indian envoys who were in Colombo two weeks ago to discuss Sri Lanka's peace proposals.

Sri Lanka has been negotiating with the rebels through Indian mediation on a plan to devolve powers to autonomous provincial councils planned to be set up in all nine provinces including northern province where Tamils predominate.

The three-year-old separatist war has largely been confined to the island's northern and eastern provinces which rebels want to merge to form a Tamil homeland. More than 4,500 people have died in communal violence since 1983.

"We have now gone almost 85 per cent towards settlement, based on devolution of power" by establishing provincial councils, Mr. De Mel said.

"There are a few difficulties and snags that are required to be overcome but it will be possible to overcome the hurdles very soon," he said.

Mr. De Mel said there had been informal hints for a possible New Year truce but no formal proposals had been made. The military and rebels had a two-day ceasefire from Dec. 25.

Philippines files \$750m suit against Marcos

MANILA (R) — A Philippine government commission Monday filed a \$750 million suit against ex-President Ferdinand Marcos to recover properties in New York it said were illegally acquired.

Jovito Salonga, chairman of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), said the commission filed the suit with the Sandigan Bayao, a special Philippine court handling graft cases.

The move follows a decision by a United States court of appeals to uphold a ruling by a lower court freezing dealings in the properties.

Mr. Salonga said in a statement that the properties include four buildings in Manhattan and an estate in Long Island, which have an estimated gross value of \$350 million.

"This is the first in a series of suits... against the Marcoses, their cronies and business associates, involving the ill-gotten wealth they acquired here and abroad during Marcos' 20 years in power," the statement said.

Macros has been living in Hawaii since he was overthrown by a civilian-backed military revolt in February that swept Corason Aquino into office.

Mr. Salonga said other suits would involve bank accounts and properties owned by Marcos in the United States and other countries estimated to be worth between \$5 billion and \$10 billion.

"The bulk of the Marcos wealth is not here or in the United States," Mr. Salonga said. "It is in Switzerland."

Mr. Salonga told a press conference later that the Aquino government has to get a verdict from a Philippine court before it can recover the frozen properties.

"The judgement by the U.S. circuit court of appeals has indicated that while they have frozen the Marcos property, the question of unlawful taking of the properties, the question of misappropriation of public funds has to be decided in a civil proceeding by a Philippine court," he said.

Mr. Salonga said Mr. Marcos "need not come back to the Philippines... for the purpose of this suit (because) he would be served through our consular authorities in Honolulu."

Asked if he would oppose Marcos coming home in case he wanted to appear in court to defend himself, Mr. Salonga said: "I do not have to oppose because it is his right under international law, but he must face all the risks in coming back."

American mystery writer dies

MILWAUKEE (R) — John D. MacDonald, the best-selling mystery writer who created the character Travis McGee and authored more than 500 pieces of fiction, has died from complications following heart surgery.

A spokesman for St. Mary's Hospital said the 70-year-old author had lapsed into a coma on Dec. 10 and never regained consciousness. He had been sustained on a respirator.

MacDonald, a resident of Sarasota, Florida, had come to Milwaukee for the heart surgery performed by Dr. W. Dudley Johnson, a bypass pioneer.

Born in Sharon, Pennsylvania,

MacDonald attended the University of Pennsylvania and Syracuse University. He received a masters of business administration from Harvard in 1939, and frequently put his knowledge of finance to use in his complex plots.

Known for his realistic, intelligent thrillers, MacDonald produced best-selling novels packed with colour and details from the daily lives of the rich, the crooked and the corrupt.

MacDonald won fans around the world with his character Travis McGee, the chivalrous, soft-spoken "salvage expert" — tracker of missing property — who starred in his mysteries.

He told reporters he could not easily explain why he was going home, and said that even some close friends who threw him a farewell party last week couldn't understand his decision or make him change his mind.

Cherkasets then fled the TV lights and reporters, hurried down the corridor and said, "it is difficult to emigrate twice."

Many of the emigres had lived in the United States for six to eight years but decided to leave because "they could not get used to the American way of living," said Mr. Zhvakina.

"Russia for Russians, America for Americans. I want to go home to see my mother," said Vladimir Proshinsky, who lived here for eight years working as a taxi driver and auto mechanic. He said he wanted to resume his chemical engineering studies in the Soviet Union.

Sunday's flight was out



Royal security tighter after burglar warning

KING'S LYNN, England (AP) — Security at the royal mansion of Sandringham has been tightened after a former convict said it was easy to burglarise, a police chief has confirmed.

Peter Howse, assistant chief constable of Norfolk in eastern England, said that Jeffrey Wolfe-Emery "indicated various things to us. I'm absolutely confident that he could not get into Sandringham House now."

Howse wouldn't say what extra security steps had been taken. But Wolfe-Emery said he recommended putting in remote-control video cameras like those at Wandsworth Prison in London, where he did time for burglary; installing a better burglar alarm system to detect anyone breaking in from the roof, and an improved steady generator to prevent the lights going out in a power failure.

Queen Elizabeth II and members of her family arrived Sunday for their customary six-week, post-Christmas holiday at Sandringham, a 274-room Jacobean style house on a 20,000-acre (8,094-hectare) estate.

Head of Soviet film industry replaced

MOSCOW (AP) — Filipp Yermash, the longtime head of the state committee on cinematography reported to be at ideological odds with many of the nation's filmmakers, was sent into retirement. The Soviet News Agency TASS said Yermash was replaced as head of the state film industry by Alexander Kamshalov, a 54-year-old former teacher and official of the Communist Youth League.

TASS said Yermash was replaced by decision of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the national parliament. The report did not confer the customary note of thanks for Yermash's 14 years as committee chairman, which would have been expected for an official leaving in good standing.

Yermash, 63, was considered responsible for holding up the distribution of several films that have drawn large crowds since their release this year. Also, the Soviet media have been complaining for two years that the film industry has suffered in prestige, quality and popularity under Yermash's direction.

Steam blamed for phone outage

NEW YORK (AP) — An underground steam leak was blamed for cutting service to approximately 1,200 telephone lines in midtown Manhattan for more than 12 hours. New York telephone officials said. The service disruption knocked out all incoming and most outgoing telephone service at the Associated Press World Headquarters in Manhattan. The outage began at 0010 GMT Sunday, when a leaking Con Edison Power Company steam line caused water to condense on the inside of four New York telephone cables, according to Tony Hart, the phone company's cable maintenance manager for midtown Manhattan. One of the cables serves commercial customers in the midtown area, including the AP. Hart said the AP was the only customer to complain, presumably because the other companies were closed for the weekend. Service was restored by 1800 GMT Sunday, Hart said.

Book on Scottish dialect sells well

GLASSGOW, Scotland (AP) — A Glasgow mother who tells a naughty child that it risks a skelp on the baboonie may well be understood in Fiji with the publication of a new book on Scottish dialect. The Pacific Island group is one of the places around the world to learn that the quaint phrase means a smack on the bottom from an unlikely best seller entitled, The Patter — A Guide to Current Glasgow Usage. Copies of the book have also been ordered by readers and dealers in the United States, Canada and Brazil. "The book is by far the biggest-selling publication we have ever had," said Deirdre Craig, secretary of the Glasgow Public Libraries Board. "It was expected to sell 2,000 copies at best when it was launched 15 months ago," she said. "But the first printing sold out in 10 days and sales are now over 30,000, most of those abroad going to expatriate Scots." "We are all astonished and delighted. I had no idea the book would do so well," said the editor of the book, Michael Munro.

South Africa clamps down on black schools

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The South African government issued new emergency regulations aimed at countering political unrest and alternative education courses in black schools.

The regulations, published in a special government gazette, enable the Black Education Department to issue orders barring pupils from schools and banning any syllabus not approved by the government.

The move is a sign of Pretoria's concern over proposals by black community groups to offer "People's Education" in black schools to replace government syllabuses which they see as designed to prolong white domination.

The department may also ban pupils from wearing clothing carrying slogans or badges of any specified organisation and may prevent the distribution of any pamphlets or posters.

The government gazette said the director-general of the Department of Education and Training may issue orders "for the purpose of the safety of the public, the maintenance of public order or the termination of the state of emergency."

Penalties for disobeying an order are fines of 4,000 rand (\$1,800) or two years in prison.

The new regulations mark a further tightening of South Africa's six-month-old state of emergency.

Earlier this month President P.W. Botha imposed new restrictions on the media and ordered a roundup of government opponents to head off a Christmas "terror campaign" he said was being planned by African National Congress (ANC) guerrillas.

Black schools have been a hotbed of opposition to the government since 1976. In some areas pupils have boycotted schools for up to two years in protest against what they regard as inferior black education.

Groups like the National Education Crisis Committee, worried that black children will be deprived of teaching, have said they should return to school.

They have proposed setting up alternative education courses including the banned teachings of ANC leader Nelson Mandela, jailed for life in 1964 for plotting sabotage and revolution.

The Soweto Parents Crisis Committee, set up to find ways of ending the crisis in black schools, called on pupils Monday to return to classes at the start of the new term in January.

Kim Il Sung re-elected president of North Korea

TOKYO (AP) — North Korea's legislature convened Monday and re-elected President Kim Il Sung, who has led North Korea since it was divided from South Korea in 1945.

State-run Radio Pyongyang and the official Korean Central News Agency gave few details about the session of the Supreme People's Assembly, but said it would "spread a new blueprint of prosperity ahead of the republic."

The agency, monitored in Tokyo, said the Central

Committee of the Workers (Communist) Party on Saturday approved the lineup of top government positions to submit to the assembly.

The committee, chaired by the 74-year-old Kim, also approved target figures for North Korea's third seven-year economic development plan, the agency said. It said the plan would "completely solve the problems of food, clothing and housing of our people and drastically improve their lives."

Stevens said his sources "are normally authoritative and appear to be talking with official sanction."

The reporter said: "There is widespread and open debate among Soviet intellectuals and

Soviets reportedly to free thousands of dissidents

LONDON (AP) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will release thousands of political prisoners from prison camps or internal exile next year in a major change of Kremlin policy toward dissidents, the Sunday Times of London reported.

The newspaper's Moscow correspondent, Edmund Stevens, quoted unidentified "senior Soviet sources in Moscow" for the story.

It said a commission consisting of representatives of the KGB secret police, the Communist Party and the government's legal department has been set up to organise the mass release.

The first sign of the policy change was last week's release from internal exile of Andrei Sakharov, the physicist and human rights campaigner, the report said.

Larissa Chukasyeva, a dissident jailed this year for peace campaigning, is also being freed, it said.

Stevens said his sources "are normally authoritative and appear to be talking with official sanction."

The reporter said: "There is widespread and open debate among Soviet intellectuals and

scientists, the two groups of the Soviet elite who most favour a relaxation over human rights, that Mr. Gorbachev intends to launch the most dramatic reforms since the days of (Nikita) Khrushchev, the Soviet leader in 1953-64, who launched reforms after the death of dictator Josef Stalin.

Stevens said that in the past, Western experts on the Soviet Union argued there could be no rapid and fundamental change because "any move toward something approaching free speech would threaten the basic concept of centralised rule by a party backed by the KGB."

"However," he continued, "Soviet sources insist that the KGB will do as it is told and that Gorbachev understands well how to handle the security agencies. Pressures on the Soviet economy also make such liberalisation inevitable."

The report quoted its sources as saying that hundreds of prisoners jailed for "economic crimes" such as corruption will also be released soon, even though that could be counterproductive as Mr. Gorbachev has already acted against corruption, notably in Central Asia.

50 Soviet emigres return home after 'unhappy years' in U.S.

NEW YORK (AP) — Fifty Soviet emigres were headed home Monday after "unhappy years" in the United States, and some said they are looking forward to reunions with their families despite an uncertain future back in the USSR.

Many interviewed before they boarded an Aeroflot jetliner late Sunday night said they don't know where they will work or whether they will be accepted by old friends and neighbours after their years in the West.

The Aeroflot desk at Kennedy International Airport was mobbed by tearful Russians who were huddled up in heavy fur coats and hats and hugged friends and family as they bade them goodbye. Some carried portable stereos and other electronics gear.

Soviet officials said it was the biggest group of emigres to return to the Soviet Union from the United States, and the regularly scheduled weekly flight to Moscow was delayed more than five hours so a larger jet could be flown in.

"I felt guilty for leaving" the Soviet Union 8½ years ago, said Taras Kordonsky, who was returning to his wife, Ludmilla, and 16-year-old son, Timofei.

He said he was prepared for harsh treatment from some who may resent his initial departure and return, but added: "The Russian people can forgive."

Alexander Cherkasets, who left a good position in a travel agency in the Soviet Union to work as a limousine driver in New York, said he hoped he could get his old job back.

"It's hard to imagine what I will do," he said. "The Soviet authorities here said we should not have any problems with the authorities there."

For many, the journey back to the Soviet Union will mean a reunion with a child, spouse or parent they have not seen in years. Others were never happy with life in the United States — particularly New York City, where many of those returning Sunday lived after their emigration — or became steadily disillusioned with it.

Kordonsky, a 38-year-old musician who was toting his guitar and a fender bass that would be a gift for his son, said he was unhappy almost immediately after arriving in the United States.

"There was the alienation, the feeling I don't belong, the anxiety and homesickness," he said.

Irina Galeitsky, who was returning to Leningrad with her husband, Yuri, and three children after nine years in the West, said that although she made some good American friends, "everybody thinks I am a Soviet spy, and I am not a Soviet spy."

It was the third group of repatriation in as many months. In

October and November, Soviet officials announced the return of 17 other emigres.

Some of the returnees had applied several times for permission but were turned down, said Alexei Zhvakina, the vice consul of the Soviet Embassy in Washington who was in New York to handle the paperwork.

Some returning Sunday said they got an immediate OK when they applied in recent months.

Soviet spokesman Igor Bulav said last month that about 1,000 emigres in the United States have applied to return.

The strain of Sunday night's departure was evident as the time grew near for the flight to depart.

One Russian-speaking visitor without a ticket had to be removed from the boarding area when he got into an argument with a man who was returning.

As the boarding continued, Vladimir Glushkov, who was scheduled to return to a small town near Odessa with his parents, wife and two children, suffered a seizure.

A paramedic said the stress of the evening may have been too much for the 40-year-old Glushkov, and there was an unexpected fearful farewell as Glushkov's parents got on the plane and left the rest of the family behind to care for him. Hours earlier, Glushkov spoke longingly of being reunited with relatives in

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OREN SHARON
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HELP FOR YOUR FRIEND

Both vulnerable. South deals.

<p>NORTH</p> <p>♠ K 5 6 3</p> <p>♥ A K 2</p> <p>♦ 5 4</p> <p>♣ K 4 2</p>	<p>EAST</p> <p>♠ Q J 10 5 4</p> <p>♥ Q J 9 5</p> <p>♦ 8 2</p> <p>♣ Q 6</p>
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WEST

♠ 9 7

♥ 10 8 5

♦ K Q J 10 9

♣ J 9 3

SOUTH

♠ A 2

♥ 7 4 3

♦ A 6 3

♣ A 10 8 7 5

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: King of ♣.

Every card played by a defender should tell a story. If partner listens to the tale, he might find a way to help.

North-South reached a reasonable three no trump contract after an uncompleted auction. Since all North's points were prime, his hand was actually worth more than the 13 it counted. Unfortunately, South did not use his assets to best advantage.

West led the king of diamonds, then continued with the queen and